



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Adviser: Dialogue With U.S. Must Continue

JN0903093890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Mar 90 p 20

[PETRA dispatch from Cairo by Tariq Khuri]

[Excerpt] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, said the PLO must not close the door to political dialogue with the United States and the Soviet Union to resolve the Palestine question and bring about peace in the region. It would be irresponsible to discontinue the dialogue, he added.

In a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Cairo, Dr. Sha'th said more serious Arab action and movement for an Arab summit soon are now essential to counter Israel's intransigence on a political settlement and to deal with the problem of Jewish immigration in the occupied territories.

If this is not done, he said, we will continue to present our cause in all forums; we will not stop our dialogue with anyone and we will continue at the Palestinian and Arab levels to open up new, genuine opportunities.

He said the United States had stepped up its efforts over the past month to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. However, Israel's intransigence, especially as manifested by the Likud bloc, makes such a dialogue impossible at the present time. Nevertheless, this signals the big possibility of a crack in the Israeli government.

Our first alternative to meet this situation, said Sha'th, is to continue the Palestinian intifadah so that we will not be speaking from a vacuum. Like the Algerian and Vietnamese revolutions, we should fight in the field and negotiate for peace; the intifadah is the lasting alternative.

Dr. Sha'th praised Jordan's and Egypt's positions on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, along with those of the other Arab countries.

He said Arab protests, especially by Jordan and Egypt, bore fruit, affecting the positions of the United States and the USSR toward Israel.

Immigration, he said, is a Jewish scheme to expel the Palestinians from their lands.

Dr. Sha'th said the intifadah is the only effective factor against this immigration, and added that support for the intifadah should take on another dimension; namely, a confrontation of the settlers on the field.

He said Israel's threats about the establishment of Greater Israel are real. What is required, therefore, is to defend Jordan and Palestine because the Jordanian and Palestinian people are equally threatened, he said. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Interviewed on Naming Delegation

LD0503104190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0812 GMT
5 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Mar (KUNA)—A member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has said in an interview published here today that the organization has not and will not present the names of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which is reportedly to take place in Cairo, until agreement is reached on an open agenda which deals with Palestinian issues and recognizes the dialogue as a step toward the holding of an international peace conference comprising the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all the parties relevant to the problem.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani said: "Not one name has yet been named and no one but the PLO will form the Palestinian delegation." He added: "No one will be allowed to alter any of the names, for it is an absolute right of the PLO to name the members of its delegation."

He said that Egypt is not a mediator but an active partner in the Palestinian cause. "Therefore, it is wrong and unjust to label Egypt as a mediator. We continuously consult and exchange views with it."

He stressed that "there would not be a PLO if it permitted anyone to choose the names of the Palestinian delegation." "Any delegation [as received] in the world has the right to choose who represents it, and so it is that the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories say that the PLO is their sole and legitimate representative." He affirmed that "the organization has not and will not present the names of the Palestinian delegation until agreement is reached on an open agenda that deals with the Palestinian issue, and until the dialogue is recognized as a step to prepare for an international peace conference comprising the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the conflict—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine." He pointed out that the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhaq Shamir, is insisting on an agenda consisting of one part—the elections. He said we want elections as a part of the settlement.

PLO's Abu-Sharif on UN Resolutions' Acceptance

LD0803142190 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Casablanca, Mar. 8 (MAP)—"The peace offered to the Israelis is neither a roundabout means nor a maneuver but a sincere aspiration and firm determination to live with the state of Israel side by side in the context of our independent state", said Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to president of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat. In an open letter to the Israeli Government that was published by local monthly "LE LIBERAL MAGAZINE" (March release), Abu-Sharif said the Palestinians

accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 thereby defining the borders of their state as being those of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The Palestinians have declared and decided that they recognize Israel's right to live inside sure and internationally recognized borders and that peace and security of all the states of the region, including Israel and Palestine, must be guaranteed by the international community and more specifically by the United Nations and the Security Council permanent members," Abu-Sharif said.

The Palestinian official recalled the various initiatives made by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) such as dialogue with the U.S., acceptance of the Baker five point plan and of Egypt's proposal concerning dialog between Israel and the PLO before wondering on the real intentions of Israel which is stubbornly opposing all peace efforts. Abu-Sharif said further that the U.S. Administration is responsible at this level since it is the major protector and money supplier of Israel. The U.S. can, if it wishes to, use its influence to promote peace.

The Palestinian official said the Israeli Government is insisting on defining the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the dialog while such process has never been used in the history of peoples, wars or negotiations. "How can an occupation force claim to chose persons from the occupied people to negotiate with it?" Abu Sharif wondered adding that Israel insists to limit dialog to the elections issue while this dialog, as proposed by the U.S., must tackle an open agenda. "It is crystal clear for the whole world and for the Israelis themselves that the path leading to peace is free from any roundabouts or maneuvers... Palestinians are ready to start negotiations immediately and will set up their delegation as soon as the U.S. Administration announces Israel's consent to partake in the Cairo meeting," the Palestinian official said before concluding, "we call on the Israeli Government to take into account reality".

PLO Envoy, Pelletreau Discuss Peace Process

*JN0703210690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1927 GMT 7 Mar 90*

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador in Tunis, met with Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and means to achieve tangible progress in this respect. They also reviewed the latest developments concerning the holding of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to boost the peace process in the region. During the meeting, brother Hakam Bal'awi said that any progress in peace efforts can only be achieved through giving the peace process a practical element, which includes the achievement of the essential rights, in order to move ahead toward a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question. He indicated that this doubles the responsibility of the U.S. Administration toward Israel's intransigence and maneuvers that are aimed at aborting the peace process.

PNC's Subayh on U.S Position, Israeli Remarks

*NC0703130990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT
7 Mar 90*

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC] (Parliament), has stressed the importance of the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and backed by President George Bush on occupied Arab Jerusalem.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said these remarks are particularly important since they come at a time when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is unobjectively speaking of Jerusalem's indivisibility and its historic and eternal nature for Israel. He said these claims contravene all the international resolutions in this respect, particularly Resolution 242, which was accepted by all the Arab countries, Israel, and the international community. He said the American position, as demonstrated by the statements of President Bush and Secretary Baker, has reaffirmed the principle of "land in exchange for peace" and has described the expansion of settlements into occupied Arab Jerusalem as a hostile action that violates Resolution 242 and other UN and Security Council resolutions and is against international will. He hoped there will be progress in the U.S. position on the issue of Jewish immigration into the occupied territories. He also hoped the United States will not provide assistance to Soviet immigrants until after peace in the region has been established; immigration could then be permitted for whoever wants to go to Israel, he said.

Commenting on Likud's demand that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue be cut short should any member of the Palestinian delegation announce that he is representing the PLO, Subayh said all factions of the Palestinian people unanimously agree that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative and the framework for their identity. The Israeli authorities, whose tight grip on the Palestinians has been continuing for more than 20 years, know this better than anyone. Proof of this fact, he added, is the document signed by 34 figures from the occupied territories in which they unanimously affirmed that the PLO cannot be excluded from any future dialogue to resolve the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that this must not be viewed as a hardline position on the part of the Palestinian people and their representatives, but rather as an affirmation that the PLO's participation will be a positive contribution toward achieving peace in the Middle East, particularly after its peaceful initiative declared during the PNC session in November 1988.

Concluding his statement, Subayh warned that placing obstacles on the road to peace could turn the conflict in the region into a religious and sectarian struggle that will benefit (neither) Israel, international Zionism, nor the United States. He said the recent document signed by Palestinian figures from the occupied territories serves as another proof for the Israeli leaders, society, and the international Zionist movement that the PLO is a key party. He emphasized that the Palestinian people are

willing to hold a dialogue with Israel so that a just and comprehensive peace in this strategic part of the world may be attained.

PLA's Al-Khadra' on U.S. Seeking Concessions

JN0403101590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT
4 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)—Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], affirmed that the 8 March revolution forms an historic pan-Arab turn with great effect and influence on the Palestine question since Syria is the strategic and historic depth for Palestine, its cause, and the struggle of its people to liberate their land and retrieve their usurped rights.

Brigadier General Al-Khadra' said in an interview published today by AL-THAWRAH newspaper that Syria forms the basic spring board and starting point for the Palestinian revolution. The first bullet was fired from Syria and, after the blessed Corrective Movement was started under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria became the fortress of Arab steadfastness.

He affirmed that the victories and gains realized by the Palestine question would not have happened had it not been for steadfast Syria and its firm struggle stands under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: We can remember what the great Arab leader says and affirms at every occasion with much pride and appreciation—that Jerusalem is before the Golan Heights and that Syria will remain as it has always been, faithful to the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to retrieve their legitimate and firm national rights.

He affirmed that Israel is fighting just and comprehensive peace. He said the U.S. settlement plan based on Shamir's project is aimed at nothing but squeezing even more Arab concessions and biding time to realize the Zionist expansionist ambitions, the proof being that it did not demand any concessions from the Zionist entity.

Regarding the present Jewish emigration to the Zionist entity, Brigadier General Al-Khadra' affirmed that these new invading emigrants will soon be a tool for Zionist expansion and a weapon for aggression and usurpation against the Palestinian people. There is no option before our people and nation other than serious action to create a true Palestinian national unity to confront this fierce invasion and all suspect schemes, thus supporting the valiant intifadah.

He affirmed that what is happening in Lebanon with the agent 'Awn clique merely serves the Zionist expansionist goals based on weakening the Arab stand.

Brigadier General Al-Khadra' affirmed in conclusion of his speech that Al-Asad's Syria will always remain the shelter of liberals and base for revolutions, guiding the pan-Arab policy to the shores of peace and security.

DFLP Prevents Split; 'Differences Remain'

JN0703095090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 Mar 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—The left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has managed to avert a split in its leadership but differences remain within its ranks over the moderate peace strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Well-informed Palestinian officials, reached by telephone in Algiers, told the JORDAN TIMES that the DFLP leadership, which met in the Algerian capital last week, decided to refer "political and organisational differences" to the general congress of the movement which is expected to meet before the end of the year.

They said that the differences between supporters of DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah and followers of his deputy Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh reached "a bone-breaking" stage during the meeting in Algiers but the two sides managed to avoid a break.

The crisis, which has been brewing for more than a year and a half over the PLO's peace strategy, reached a critical point last week when the meeting of the DFLP central committee failed to reach a political and an organisational agreement.

However, Hawatimah supporters said "a minimum agreement was reached," but conceded that differences persisted between the two sides.

The main differences between the two sides stem from disagreement over Palestinian tactics towards the Middle East peace process and a campaign by the supporters of 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is also a member of the PLO Executive Committee, "for organisational reforms, and democratisation and pursuit of a realistic political strategy." But Hawatimah supporters, most of whom are based in Damascus, have been very critical of 'Abd-Rabbuh's "conciliatory statements towards the peace process and taking positions without coordination with the DFLP leadership."

'Abd-Rabbuh, who has been based in Damascus since 1987 [as published], heads the PLO delegation to the dialogue with the U.S. and has been operating very closely with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Sources close to 'Abd-Rabbuh, however, maintained that the senior DFLP official advocated "a flexible position" while opposing further political concessions to the Americans and Israelis.

Some of his supporters, who were also reached by telephone in Algiers, accused the Hawatimah camp of being "backed and influenced by Syria."

"They are concerned about keeping their positions in Damascus," said one DFLP official. The charge was

strongly denied by another official who supported Hawatimah. Damascus-based DFLP officials have repeatedly countered that most of their Tunis-based comrades "have been drifting away from the grassroot and popular Palestinian mood."

But supporters of 'Abd-Rabbuh who describe themselves as the "realistic and nationalist Palestinian" trend say they enjoy the backing of most DFLP officials in the occupied territories.

They said that three of 'Abd-Rabbuh supporters—Salih Rif'at, Mamduh Nawfal and Jamil Hilal—refrained from taking part in elections to the DFLP political bureau, making room for three DFLP members from the occupied territories.

They said that they declined an offer by Hawatimah to "Share the leadership of the political bureau" in a gesture aimed at giving a bigger role to the leadership inside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Both Hawatimah and 'Abd-Rabbuh were reelected as secretary general and assistant secretary general of the left-wing group. DFLP sources said that while Hawatimah "secured a modest majority" 'Abd-Rabbuh won a "landslide." They said that the outcome was influenced by the vote of the DFLP leaders from inside the territories, "some of whom voted against Hawatimah."

Supporters of 'Abd-Rabbuh say that although neither side dominated last week's meeting they believe that their side emerged "stronger" as the results of the voting indicated.

"The general secretariat now includes members of the younger generation and women...we needed new blood," said a DFLP official. He refused to divulge names of the "young generation" or women.

The 'Abd-Rabbuh wing said that it was able to gain support for its demand for convening a general congress for the movement—the third since the founding of the DFLP in 1968—and that they dominated the preparatory committee entrusted with organising the meeting.

It said that it hoped the congress would have a final say on the prevailing political and organisational differences.

They said, however, that they would continue to struggle against what they described as "the conservative nationalist (pan-Arab nationalist) trend" from within the framework of the group.

The description seems to be a reference to the structure of the Hawatimah wing as it includes Iraqis and Lebanese alongside Hawatimah, who is a Jordanian.

On the other hand, the Hawatimah wing is now describing 'Abd-Rabbuh supporters as "Palestinian chauvinists" in the harshest public recrimination in the history of the DFLP, which has historically been known for its complete discretion and secrecy concerning its internal differences.

The major supporters of Hawatimah include Qays Samarra'i (Abu-Layla) and Charles Suwan while among supporters of 'Abd-Rabbuh are Salih Rif'at, Mamduh Nawfal, Jamil Hilal and Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, who is based in Damascus but who spent two years in Syrian jails.

Differences Said 'Settled'

JN0803090090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Mar 90 p 24

[Text] Amman—A Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] source has asserted that all differences within the DFLP ranks have been settled. In a statement to AL-RA'Y, the source denied what was published by AL-RA'Y yesterday and said it was unfounded.

The source said that Nayif Hawatimah was last night unanimously elected secretary general of the DFLP. He also said that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh was elected to the Political Bureau while some Political Bureau members, including Salih Ra'fat and Mamduh Nawfal, lost the elections.

The source denied that there were any deals and that elections were conducted in a democratic free manner on the basis of centralized democracy that governs the DFLP's internal relations.

The source also denied the existence of any wings within the DFLP and said that its members are tied together by the DFLP's political line that had proved its ability throughout all phases. The source said that a detailed statement in this regard will be issued later today.

Algeria

Lebanese President Arrives for Visit 5 Mar

Makes Statement

LD0503230690 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
2200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived this evening in Algeria on a two-day friendly and working visit. He was received at Huari Bounedine International Airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic. [passage omitted]

In the airport VIP Hall, President Ilyas al-Hirawi gave a statement to the radio correspondent, colleague Nabila Khraiseiah, at the beginning of which he pointed out the aim of the visit. He said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hirawi] The visit is basically to thank the brother president for what he has done for Lebanon, especially as fraternal Algeria is a member of the supreme committee which stemmed from the Casablanca summit. That committee has dealt with the Lebanese issue, and its efforts led to the National Concord document in al-Ta'if. Therefore my visit is to express thanks. The rest of the issues will be discussed when we have an agenda. This depends on what the brother president and myself will talk about tomorrow.

[Khraiseiah] What do you expect from Algeria in hastening the solution of the Lebanese problem, with all its difficulties? And what is your assessment of the Algerian role in this?

[Al-Hirawi] We expect a very great deal from all our Arab brothers, with fraternal Algeria at their forefront because of what is known about its president, government, and, in particular, its foreign minister because of his effective role in the al-Ta'if agreement. We will deal with all the Arab countries, especially the Supreme Tripartite Committee, which started to work toward ending the Lebanese crisis. We are confident that this crisis will end at the hands of our brothers, especially the Tripartite committee. The Lebanese requirements under these circumstances are quite a lot. But before the requirements we would like to settle the Lebanese issue and make the land of Lebanon a land of peace and love, after it has been a land of fighting and war. [end recording]

[Announcer] In this visit the Lebanese president is accompanied by an important delegation, which consists in particular of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss; Agriculture Minister Muhsin Daldul; Ambassador Suhayl Shammās, director general of the Foreign Ministry; and the Lebanese ambassador to Algeria.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD0603142190 *Algiers APS in English* 1320 GMT
6 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 6 March (APS)—Algerian-Lebanese political talks resumed Tuesday here under the chairmanship of Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Ilyas al-Hirawi. The talks took up the latest developments of the situation in Lebanon and enabled the examination of means likely to lift obstacles hindering the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement of national understanding.

At the opening of talks, President Al-Hirawi reiterated his thanks and his consideration for the role President Chadli Bendjedid is playing in the search of a solution to the Lebanese crisis and the recording [as received] of legality, security, and stability in Lebanon.

Bendjedid Views Talks

LD0603220790 *Algiers APS in Arabic* 1400 GMT
6 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 6 Mar (APS)—Following the Algerian-Lebanese political talks which were enlarged to include the delegations of both countries, President Chadli Bendjedid expressed to the Lebanese news his pleasure at receiving the Lebanese president and the accompanying delegation on their short visit of Algeria. He said that Algeria has done and will do its utmost for the return of stability and security to our second country and to its fraternal Lebanese people.

President Chadli Bendjedid reiterated Algeria's determination to continue exerting its utmost efforts at all levels for the return of stability and security to Lebanon. He added that Algeria stands by the Lebanese legitimacy in all decisions made for the benefit of Lebanon, stressing Algeria's rejection of foreign interferences, be it Arab or non-Arab, in the affairs of Lebanon. He added: We back the Lebanese legitimacy and support it for the sake of an honest and sound settlement, explaining that Algeria will not participate in or agree to any intervention or support outside the Lebanese legitimacy.

Al-Hirawi Departs for Morocco

NC0603211990 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
2000 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Citing an informed source in Algiers, AFP reports that President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Algiers this evening for Morocco, the last leg of his tour of the Arab tripartite committee's member states.

President Al-Hirawi arrived in Algiers last night and held two meetings with his Algerian counterpart Chadli Bendjedid. At a news conference before his departure, President Al-Hirawi said he is satisfied with the Algerian president's readiness to support the legitimate authority in Lebanon and to contribute financially to the reconstruction of the country and strengthening its army.

President Al-Hirawi emphasized that he waits for clear stands by France and the Western nations on supporting the legitimate authority and on those who usurped this authority.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid said his country will continue to work for the restoration of stability and security in Lebanon. He said he supports all the decisions by the Lebanese legitimate authority in the interests of Lebanon. President Benjedid rejected any external interference in Lebanon.

Citing a responsible source in Algiers, REUTER reports that Algeria has agreed to send military equipment to the Lebanese Army to help it impose the legitimate authority in all of Lebanon. The source added that the decision was made after President Al-Hirawi's discussions with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in Algiers, and that this is the first noticeable result of President al-Hirawi's tour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco. The source also said that President Benjedid has ordered that the Lebanese army be supplied with the military equipment to enable it carry out its security task in Lebanon.

Party Leader Allalou Comments on 'Forum' Program

LD0703153890

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1225 GMT on 7 March broadcasts a seven-minute "Forum of the Parties" program featuring Mehdi Abbas Allalou, chairman of the Popular Association for Unity and Action. Allalou says his association backs the democratic process "out of its belief that real democracy has been for 27 years the dream of the Algerian people despite the propagandistic slogans which were repeated and stuffed in the minds of the citizens during all this time." He adds that for his association there should not just be a semblance of democracy limited to pluralism, but that real democracy "allows the masses of the people to exercise freedom and sovereignty, to preserve dignity and the rights, to reject injustice, and to provide the means of an honorable living and enough jobs."

Allalou goes on to say that "the economic, social, and political program of the Popular Association for Unity and Action is based essentially on the embodiment of these principles by giving a wider concept and wider owners to the elected people's councils to enable them to play their role as they should to push the wheel of development and progress forward."

He also presents the main points in his association's program as being the "contribution to emerge from the economic crisis through which our country is going by giving a new impetus to economic growth—we all know that Algeria possesses a significant industrial base—by reducing the high interest rate and by ending the problem of external debts, in one way or another."

With regard to Arabization, Allalou says that "it is a sacred civilizational operation which we consider as

aimed at restoring the Algerian Arab-Islamic personality. We also consider the Arabic language as the sole official language in the country and we will endeavor in earnest to give it its real place in our country." He adds that the Arab countries, including Algeria, cannot emerge from this stifling crisis if they do not form a bloc to unite their efforts and achieve their economic integration.

The chairman of the popular association for unity and action also calls for the introduction of wide ranging administrative reforms to "combat bureaucracy and administrative problems." He stresses the "need to remedy social problems such as unemployment and the housing crisis by presenting a rational project."

With regard to women, he says that "they represent half the population of Algerian society; therefore they must enjoy the same rights and have the same duties."

Allalou adds that "we will strive to achieve these goals with the participation of all the national forces."

He goes on to say that the association "considers Islam, the integrity of the national territory, and the unity of the Algerian people achieved with sacrifice and also the Arabic language, as the nation's main firm principles." He also adds that "the association will endeavor to preserve national independence and fight foreign dependency in all its forms. The association's motto is "unity, action, and freedom," he says. It will also endeavor to achieve the unity of the Greater Arab Maghreb on firm and solid foundations, and will spare no effort to realize the unity of the Arab homeland. "It supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for the recovery of their usurped land and the establishment of their independent state. It also supports all the liberation movements in the world," he concludes.

Municipal, Provincial Elections Set for 12 Jun

LD0703133890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, and discussed the measures pertaining to the organizing and the holding of elections for the renewal of the municipal and provincial people's councils. In this respect, the Council of Ministers decided to fix the date of the municipal and provincial elections for 12 June. Therefore, all candidacies must be put forward before Saturday, 12 April. The election campaign will start on 21 May and will end on 4 June.

On this occasion, President Chadli Bendjedid stressed the need to adhere to the democratic rules stipulated by the constitution with regard to the organization of the election campaign, the candidates' freedom of speech, and electoral mobilization to ensure the best conditions for this operation which should be characterized by openness.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid also called on the media to launch a campaign to clarify the procedures for voting in the elections of the local councils. After the meeting of the Council of Ministers, the president of the Republic signed the decree calling the electoral roll.

Egypt

Tunisian President Meets Mubarak, Concludes Visit

NC0803130890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held private talks in al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning. An official farewell ceremony was held for the Tunisian president there in which President Mubarak and senior officials took part. Following the ceremony, President Mubarak accompanied the Tunisian president to Cairo airport.

Ismail Khelil Views Talks

NC0803131390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Today Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil described the visit of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak as positive. The talks, he said, dealt with ways to improve bilateral cooperation. Arab, African, and international affairs were also discussed.

In an exclusive interview with MENA before the Tunisian president and his delegation left for home, the minister said that viewpoints of the two presidents were identical on all Arab, African, and international issues.

The minister said that Presidents Ben Ali and Mubarak are eager to maintain excellent relations and high-level contacts between their countries.

Asked about Tunisia's position on the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, Khelil said that there is no dispute between Tunis and Cairo in this respect. This matter is for the Arab countries to decide, and we will accept any decision passed by the Arab countries, he said.

Concerning cooperation among Arab groupings, the Tunisian foreign minister said that the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) leaders have passed a decision at their meeting in Tunis last January in which they urged stronger cooperation between the Arab groupings in the framework of the Arab league. Such cooperation, he said, could bring us closer to the common goal of Arab unity.

Work at the AMU, he said, is proceeding steadily. The organizational structure of the AMU has been formed in a short time and will begin operating soon. Labor committees were formed and the consultative council has

been expanded. The general secretariat will acquire a permanent headquarters, and a secretary general will be elected in July, Khelil said.

The Tunisian foreign minister commented on the current developments in Europe and their impact on Arab countries. He called for coordination and consultations between Arab countries to unify their position and to safeguard their interests concerning the EC. Arab groupings and the Arab League can play a positive role in this respect.

Concerning the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, Khelil said that this is a topic that worries all Arabs, for this migration and the ensuing settlement adds basic complications to the Palestinian issue. Presidents Mubarak and Ben Ali have discussed that issue and expressed their concern. They called on the international community to take a firm stand with regard to these developments which affect the course of the peace efforts engineered by Egypt.

The foreign minister praised Mubarak's chairmanship of the OAU, saying that Mubarak is playing an active and effective role. Tunisia, he said, has followed with interest all the steps which President Mubarak took as OAU chairman and wishes him success in resolving African problems. We support President Mubarak in his efforts to resolve these problems, he said.

Joint Communiqué Issued

NC0803153690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's visit to Cairo; issued in Cairo on 8 March]

[Text] Within the framework of the close relations between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Tunisian Republic, His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 6 to 8 March 1990, at President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's invitation. The warm welcome accorded the Tunisian president and his accompanying delegation was an ideal expression of their close bilateral ties.

[Words indistinct] in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and complete understanding, which dealt with bilateral ties and how to develop and bolster them. They also dealt with various Arab, regional, and international issues of mutual interest and revealed an identical view on all these issues.

During these talks, the two presidents paid special attention to strengthening bilateral ties. They asserted that there is a mutual political desire to bolster these ties and to develop Egyptian-Tunisian cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural, and scientific spheres. They want to develop these ties to consolidate the solidarity between the two countries and to contribute to

the success of their respective development plans to achieve progress and prosperity for Egyptians and Tunisians.

The two delegations reviewed the progress of cooperation between the two countries since the meeting of the two presidents in September 1989. They examined the results of the higher joint committee's meetings which were held in Tunis in December 1989. They expressed satisfaction with the committee's achievements toward forming a legal framework for cooperation in various fields. They entrusted the two governments with following up implementing agreements and especially emphasized strengthening economic cooperation and trade for the good of the two fraternal peoples and countries.

The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the increasing contacts and relations between businessmen of both countries. They commended establishing the Egyptian-Tunisian businessmen council, which gives the private sector the opportunity to play an important role in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

Regarding cultural relations, the two delegations stressed their confidence in the role that Arab culture can play in uniting the sons of the one nation and fostering closer intellectual links among them. They noted the need to enhance cultural and artistic exchange and foster permanent contacts between intellectuals and artists from both countries.

In reviewing Arab causes, the two presidents gave special attention to the Palestinian issue, which is the foremost pan-Arab cause. The discussions revealed identical views with regard to supporting the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories. The two presidents urged the international community to exert pressure on Israel to halt their occupation forces' repression and violence. This repression and violence contravenes international law and human rights principles.

The two delegations discussed Jewish emigration from the USSR and East Europe to the occupied Arab territories and its negative effects on the prospects of attaining peace and security for all the peoples and countries of the region. They emphasized the need to halt all settlement in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories as a necessary step to open the door for a comprehensive and just solution. The two presidents welcomed the EC statement issued in February on this matter.

The two sides praised the constructive policy adopted by the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, in promoting Middle East peace efforts which seek to enable the fraternal Palestinian people to fully exercise their legitimate national and political rights. These include their inalienable right to self-determination and their right to establish a state on their land. The two delegations voiced support for the current peace efforts and for holding an international conference

for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices, with all concerned parties, including the PLO, participating.

The two countries expressed their concern over the conditions in Lebanon which threaten the positive results of the al-Ta'if accord. They reiterated their support for the Higher Arab Committee's efforts to maintain Lebanon's Arabism and to preserve its independence and national territorial integrity. The two presidents appealed to all sectors of the Lebanese people to support the legitimate authority represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his national reconciliation government. They called for implementing Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 which calls for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all Lebanese territories without delay.

The two sides also expressed concern over the continuing deadlock in settling the Iraq-Iran conflict and its threat to peace and security in the Gulf and Arab east region. They reiterated their support for Security Council Resolution 598 and for President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 5 January 1990, expressing their hope that Iran would review its position of rejection so that the peoples of the region, including the Iraqis and Iranians, can reap the fruits of security, peace, and stability.

The two sides also studied the issue of water resources in the Arab world. They stressed their support for all Arab countries in their efforts to secure their legitimate needs from these resources without any direct or indirect threats.

The talks also dealt with strengthening cooperation between regional Arab councils within the Arab League and the principles of its charter. The two sides discussed the steps taken by the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] since their establishment in February 1989. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reviewed the results of the AMU summit in Tunis from 21 to 23 January 1990. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak reviewed the results of the ACC's Higher Council meetings in Amman from 24 to 25 February 1990.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed his gratitude for the AMU countries' efforts to consolidate cooperation and bolster joint Arab action along the course of the comprehensive Arab unity. His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's positive role in strengthening Arab solidarity at this critical stage that our Arab nation is experiencing.

The two sides paid particular attention to the Arab-European dialogue. They welcomed the positive results reached at the Arab and European foreign ministers' meeting in Paris in December 1989. They expressed their belief in the need to continue efforts to strengthen and promote this dialogue.

On the basis of their pride in belonging to the African Continent, the two sides carefully studied the situation

in Africa. They reviewed the obstacles facing the African peoples in their struggle for protecting their independence and sovereignty in the face of the deteriorating economic and environmental situations. The two sides also expressed their desire to intensify the efforts to increase Arab-African cooperation. They agreed to continue consultations on Arab, African, and international issues out of their belief that the interests, security, and common future of the Arab homeland and Africa are linked.

The two sides agreed to continue cooperation within the OAU framework to strengthen the OAU's unity and role in serving the issues of liberation and development on the continent.

The Tunisians reiterated their confidence that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's wise chairmanship of the OAU would strengthen peace and cooperation among African peoples and achieve the OAU's noble goals. The two sides stressed that they will continue their efforts within the committee formed by the Addis Ababa summit, which His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak chairs, to resolve the conflict between Mauritania and Senegal. They also stressed their desire to continue the efforts to resolve conflicts in Africa so that the continent's peoples can put all their resources and potential toward building, construction, and a comprehensive development process.

The Tunisian and Egyptian presidents addressed special congratulations to the Namibian people on the occasion of their independence on 21 March. They also emphasized their support for the South Africans in their legitimate struggle to end the policy of apartheid. They welcomed the release of African leader Nelson Mandela and the Pretoria regime's recognition of the African National Congress. They appealed to the international community to continue exerting pressure on the apartheid regime until a society based on the principles of freedom, human rights, and majority rule is established in South Africa.

The two sides affirmed their total commitment to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and agreed on the need for coordination and cooperation to bolster, activate, and promote the movement's effectiveness in keeping with the changes in the international community.

The two sides expressed their great satisfaction with the positive developments in international relations and their consequent consolidation of accord, peace, and security in the world. They underlined the importance of continuing the efforts aimed at achieving total and comprehensive disarmament under effective international control. They also underlined the importance of the call to declare the Middle East an area free of nuclear weapons. The discussions dealt with the successive international changes whether regarding the relations between the two superpowers or regarding central and East Europe. The two sides expressed hope that these

developments would contribute to consolidating world stability and peace in accordance with UN principles and its charter.

The Egyptian and Tunisian sides expressed hope that international economic relations will tangibly improve in keeping with the current improvement in international relations in general.

During the discussions, views were exchanged on the ways to support the initiatives presented by Egypt, India, Senegal, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia as well as the initiative presented by President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali at the UN General Assembly last November to allocate a decade for peace and progress between the north and the south within the UN framework. Both sides emphasized that the two initiatives have the same goals and urged the international community to support them.

His Excellency President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has seen the aspects of comprehensive renaissance which the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt is experiencing in all fields under His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's leadership. He expressed admiration of the successive important achievements the Egyptian Government, leadership, and people have realized in the domain of consolidating democracy, developing the infrastructure, and giving momentum to industrial, agricultural, and tourist development.

His Excellency President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude for the warm welcome he and the Tunisian delegation have been accorded throughout their stay in the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt. He invited His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to pay an official visit to Tunisia. His excellency accepted the invitation gratefully, and the date will be set through diplomatic channels.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for Tunis League Meetings

NC0903084590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT
9 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Tunis this morning to take part in the Arab League's foreign ministers council meetings which will begin on 10 March in Tunis. In a departure statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the council will discuss the recent developments concerning the Palestinian issue, ways of consolidating the intifadah, the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, and the return of the Arab League's General Secretariat to Cairo.

Al-Baz Returns From Kuwait 8 Mar

NC0803180990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo this

afternoon following a three-day visit to Kuwait. During his visit he held talks with officials there on ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

Mubarak Cables Al-Asad on Revolution Anniversary

NC0703162890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Mar 90

["Text" of cable from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the 8 March Revolution anniversary; date not given]

[Text] It pleases me to send you and the fraternal Syrian people the most sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution. I implore to God Almighty to protect and safeguard you so that with you and through you the fraternal Syrian people may achieve their hopes for reconstruction, progress, and prosperity. Please accept my highest regards and esteem.

Libya

U.S. Alleges Chemical Weapons Being Produced

Official Denies Al-Rabitah Claims

LD0703154990 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT
7 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie 7, [7 March] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An official source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has disclaimed today what has been broadcast by the U.S. TV network ABC alleging that Libya has produced quantities of chemical weapons in al-Rabitah medicine factory.

Replying to a question raised by JANA, the above source has said that such allegations aired at present by some media circles aim at creating a state of suspicion vis-a-vis [word indistinct] reconciliation and harmony prevailing in the Arab unionist atmosphere where excellent and forward steps have been taken at all levels—economically, politically, and in the sphere of development among the Arab Maghreb Union countries in particular and among members of the Arab nation in general.

The above source has maintained that the U.S. Administration as it seems has not benefited from the mistakes made by the former U.S. president in alleging a series of allegations against Great al-Jamahiriyah such allegations have been shown to be baseless before the world public opinion [sentence as received]. We have thought that the Bush administration will benefit in a sensible manner from these mistakes that have inflicted great damage upon the U.S. people itself. Apart from discrediting the U.S. worldwide, especially when Reagan committed an aggressive crime by bombing the two cities of Tripoli and Benghazi causing the U.S. a moral catastrophe.

The above source has concluded by expressing his sorrow over the sham comments that have been repeatedly aired by Western and U.S. media organs in particular against Great al-Jamahiriyah and the Libyan Arab people taking into account that we in Great al-Jamahiriyah have called for a balanced and open dialogue with the new U.S. Administration.

Envoy to UN Denies Production

JN0703203990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 7 Mar 90

[From "Panorama" program]

[Text] Ambassador 'Ali al-Turayki, head of the Libyan delegation to the United Nations, has told our radio that Libya does not produce chemical weapons. He declared his government's readiness to sign an international agreement to ban the manufacture and use of chemical weapons in the Middle East, and to carry out international verification to ensure that there are neither chemical nor nuclear weapons.

'Authoritative Source' Comments

LD0803142290 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] An authoritative source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made the following statement:

The U.S. Administration has started once again to reiterate false allegations and accusations against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. These accusations were preceded by a distasteful media campaign, which was followed by a statement made by the White House official spokesman yesterday in which he claimed chemical weapons are being manufactured at the pharmaceutical and medical equipment factory of al-Rabitah.

The U.S. spokesman was not content with only reiterating these allegations, for which we supplied answers, and about which the world noted the falsity, but the statement hinted at the possibility of embarking on any action against the Great Jamahiriyah, including military action.

While the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation condemns and denies the statement of the U.S. official spokesman, it stressed once again the already announced full commitment of the Jamahiriyah to all international charters and efforts aimed at forbidding the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and other destructive weapons. The Jamahiriyah stresses its readiness to cooperate with any international and constructive effort in this connection. It calls on the international community, its countries and organizations, to denounce

and stand up to this hostile and serious policy still being pursued by the U.S. Administration, and which does not only represent a threat against Libya, but also against all

developing countries that strive to be committed to their freedom and reject capitulation to foreign hegemony and domination.

Kuwait**Defense Chief Denies Long-Range Missiles Bought***LD0903093390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0706 GMT
9 Mar 90*

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (KUNA)—Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad Friday denied that Kuwait had purchased long-range missiles and stressed that it maintains good relations with the region's countries.

In an interview with daily AL WATAN, published today, Shaykh Nawaf said the region's future is safe as long as security and stability have prevailed following the cease-fire in the Gulf war. He expressed hope that both countries would reach a comprehensive peace agreement to start a new stage of cooperation on the basis of one religion and good neighborliness.

Shaykh Nawaf expressed satisfaction over military cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, noting that the 4th peninsula Shield maneuvers, which are currently taking place in Kuwait, form an advanced stage of such cooperation.

Shaykh Nawaf and chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces as well as chiefs of staff of GCC member states are scheduled to attend activities of the maneuvers next Sunday, the paper said.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Arab League Council*LD0903104790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0815 GMT
9 Mar 90*

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait's deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left here Friday for Tunisia to attend the 93rd ordinary session of the Arab League Council. KUNA learnt that a preparatory meeting will be held tonight at Shaykh Sabah's residence to discuss major items on agenda of the session, scheduled to open tomorrow, topped by the return of the league headquarters to Cairo.

Shaykh Sabah is accompanied by an official delegation grouping senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Saudi Arabia**Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 7 Mar***LD0803105990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Polyakov arrived yesterday in Riyadh to brief Saudi officials about the Soviet stance toward the problem of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. Regarding this, the Soviet official will confer with the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who will brief the Soviet official about Saudi policies toward the Muslims of the Soviet Union.

Comments on Jewish Immigration*LD0803175190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1717 GMT
8 Mar 90*

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received in his office this morning Vladimir Polyakov, member of the collegium of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department. The meeting covered political issues of common interest.

The Soviet official concentrated in his explanation to his royal highness the foreign minister on the reforms underway in the Soviet Union, and he also referred to the attitude of his country to the Palestine problem, Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Palestinian territories, the Iraq-Iran war and the Afghan problem. Ambassador Dr. Nizar 'Ubayd Madani, head of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting. Polyakov arrived at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport last night. He was welcomed by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Yemen Arab Republic**North, South Yemeni Leaders Hold Unity Meeting***JN0803181390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] The session of fraternal talks between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland began at the presidential palace in Ta'izz at noon today.

The session of talks was chaired by brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. At the outset of the meeting, brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed their great satisfaction with the continuation of the brotherly unionist meetings between the leaderships of the two parts ever since the historic Aden meeting, and the Sanaa and Mukayrat meetings.

They indicated the current Ta'izz meeting will review whatever unity steps have been achieved, and explained these speedy steps the Yemeni arena is witnessing will open broad vistas for the future of our Yemeni people. They asserted Yemeni unity is a colossal deed that is as important as the September and October Revolutions. Indeed, it represents the third revolution, the great revolution, and is the embodiment of the ambitions and aspirations of our Yemeni people. They voiced their appreciation for the efforts the various unity committees are making.

The two leaders made it clear all kinds of obstacles and erroneous concepts that surfaced in the past have been removed and were overcome, and that there is no discord or difference. They also affirmed the importance of following up the implementation of the decisions

issued by the unity meetings of the leaderships of the two parts, and of translating them into a tangible reality.

Brother Al-Bid had arrived in Ta'izz this morning. Leading those who received him were brother President leader Colonel Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the General Committee; deputy prime ministers; members of the General Committee and the Consultative Council and the Council of Ministers; and members of the Standing Committee.

Accompanying brother Al-Bid on this visit are brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau, and a number of the Political Bureau members and the YSP Central Committee.

On the other hand, the meeting discussed the work of the unity committees, together with the issues and topics linked to the economic future of the Yemeni unity state. [passage omitted]

U.S. Silence on Israeli 'Genocide' Criticized

JN0803133590 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 8, INA—AL-THAWRAH Iraqi daily sharply criticized the silence of the U.S. media towards the Zionist genocide campaigns against the Palestinian people, particularly residents of the occupied Gaza Strip.

In an article issued today, the daily cited the increasing number of the Palestinian martyrs and wounded in Gaza towns and camps as evidence.

The daily added that this dubious silence continued at a time Gaza wound was still open and the whole world stood helpless. [sentence as received] It confirmed that the wound, in itself, represented a condemnation of Washington, as it supplied the Zionist occupation army with arms and ammunition.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that the U.S. silence towards the Zionist crimes unveiled the U.S. involvement in the genocide.

It reaffirmed that this wound would write in blood what the Arab nation held against Washington and Tel Aviv.

The daily underlined the Palestinian people's determination to continue its struggle for the liberation of Palestine, stressing the fact that what the Palestinians wrote in blood was much more sincere and eloquent than all U.S. statements, despite Washington's influence on almost all world medias.

AL-THAWRAH drew a conclusion saying: "Ignoring the Palestinians' legitimate rights by Washington and its Zionist allies will be of no use, for all the free peoples have gained their freedoms without consulting their enemies...and that is exactly what the Palestinians do."

Oil Minister on Upcoming OPEC Meeting, Policy

JN0803195190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT
8 Mar 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (WAKH)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said that the OPEC meeting to be held in Vienna next week will not deal with the current output agreement of 22 million barrels per day.

Al-Jalabi said that the quotas agreed upon during the OPEC ministerial meeting last November will remain unchanged for the first half of this year.

In a statement to WAKH in Baghdad, the Iraqi oil minister described the ministerial meeting convened by the eight-nation committee as being held only to discuss the market situation without making any decisions.

It [WAKH] reported earlier that efforts are being made to reach a new agreement leading to increasing output quotas of some OPEC member states.

Al-Jalabi said the next meeting to be held by the OPEC in Vienna on 16 March will be an opportunity for oil ministers to exchange views on the state of the oil market. He said contacts and consultations will be held among member states after the next meeting to prepare for the ministerial council's meeting on 25 May, which is being held to achieve market stability and ensure compliance with the current agreement. The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq held a meeting in Kuwait last week to discuss prices and world markets and means to maintain their stability.

Replying to question on Iraqi oil policy, the Iraqi oil minister said it was unchanged and there would be no return to any form of franchises. He explained that foreign companies were being invited to participate with the Iraqi Oil Ministry in developing explored and valued fields in accordance with an agreement for paying costs through oil explored from these fields. He said that contacts are continuing to draw up terms for long-term contracts in this regard. He said Japanese, U.S., and European companies have responded favorably and that meetings will continue until a clear plan of action is decided to increase Iraq's output during the next few years in order to guarantee the availability of crude oil for world consumers in light of the anticipated large increase in demand for oil.

Iraq nationalized all foreign oil investment companies in 1972 and national institutions assumed the task of oil exploration and production, as well as supply operations abroad.

The Iraqi oil minister denied reports on plans to establish a third pipeline to carry Iraqi oil through Turkey to the Mediterranean. He said there are no studies or contacts in this regard.

He said that the Oil Ministry, which halted oil exportation by trucks to Turkey from the beginning of this year, is now studying the idea proposed by the Turkish Tubrash [as received] corporation to establish a short export pipeline over the border to carry oil products exported to Turkey. He said the idea is still in its initial phases and there is currently no intention to increase pumping through Turkey.

Iraq has three terminals for exporting crude oil to the world. The first is through Turkey, the second through Saudi Arabia, and the third through the Arabian Gulf.

IAF Planes Bomb 'Terrorist' Bases in Lebanon

TA0903112390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 9 Mar 90

[By Army affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] For the first time since the beginning of 1990, Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this afternoon bombed terrorist targets far within the Lebanese rear area. The targets, attacked a short time ago, served as launching bases for Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. These were terrorist bases situated in the Khan Hayyat area, north of Tripoli in Lebanon and several kilometers north of Beirut.

All our planes returned safely to base, and all the targets were hit. So far there still are no reports from the news agencies on casualties from the bombing. This is the eighth IAF attack in Lebanon since the beginning of 1990.

'Terrorists' Part of Hizballah

TA0803124290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Report on interview with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, by Hayim Hecht on 8 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] The young commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingent that clashed with the terrorists early this morning was highly praised by Major General Peled.

This was a terrorist squad equipped like a bona fide military unit: commando boots, camouflage battle uniforms, flak jackets, and plenty of explosives. The commander of the Northern Command congratulated the troops on a job well done:

[Peled] Many elements operate in conjunction within the security zone. Last night the IDF conducted a joint armored and infantry operation. The terrorists were encountered in the course of this activity, and the result, as everyone knows, was the total elimination of the terror squad: five dead terrorists and no casualties among our forces. Judging from the outcome of the altercation and from preliminary findings in the field, I would say the performance, the commitment, the determination, and the professional standards shown by the soldiers was at the level we expect from our fighters.

[Hecht] Who were the terrorists, and where do you think they were headed?

[Peled] We have an almost certain estimate they belonged to the Hizballah. Judging from their equipment, one can assume they intended either to attack one of the outposts or to place explosives and detonate some

kind of bomb inside the security zone. I make this assumption based on the quantities of explosives they were carrying.

[Hecht] The fact the terrorists operated in the eastern sector, not far from the Syrian positions, does not necessarily constitute proof of Syrian complicity; however, Maj. Gen. Peled added he was sure the Syrians would not have felt sorry if the terrorists had succeeded in accomplishing their mission.

Katynushas Launched at S. Lebanon; No Casualties

TA0903142390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired at noon at the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon, but no one was hurt. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that positions of the Israel Defense Forces and the South Lebanese Army returned fire. Thirty rockets were fired at the security zone, but in this case, too, there were no casualties.

Rabin, Peres Meet With SHAS; Delay Refused

TA0903070490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Interior Minister Arye Der'i charged the Likud with responsibility for the government crisis which stems, in his opinion, from the internal problems in the Likud. The Alignment heads rejected Minister Peretz's demand to agree to a one-week postponement of the Inner Cabinet resolution. Last night, the SHAS [Torah-Observing Sephardim] leaders met with Ministers Peres, Rabin, and Edri. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Minister Arye Der'i made no bones about leveling an accusing finger at the element responsible for the crisis which stems from doctrinal, rather than tactical, causes.

[Der'i] After a year of very hard work they decide all of a sudden this is not what they wanted. I therefore do not think this crisis can be overcome—unless the Likud decides it is capable of overcoming its own internal problems and that we say yes to Cairo and to Baker. Believe me, from what I have gathered, all the problems can be resolved. The question here is one of principle: Will the Likud overcome the difficulties, does Mr. Shamir decide to abide by the promises he made, and do we say yes?

[Raz] Der'i's colleague, Rabbi Peretz, seems to have assumed a new tone after his meeting with the Alignment heads. Although after his meeting with the prime minister, he expressed support for the Likud stance, last night he said something slightly different:

[Peretz] We were convinced by the sincerity of the Alignment goals; we realized they do wish to promote the peace process. We have understood that the distance

between the Likud and the Alignment stands is very brief. We suggested, therefore, on behalf of the SHAS Party, that the Alignment give the Likud another one-week option. We, on our part, promised to make every effort to close the gaps between them, to guarantee the delegation to Cairo speaks in one voice.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, we heard Minister Peretz say they suggested postponing the Inner Cabinet decision by one week. Is there any point in this proposal?

[Peres] No. I told him I am willing to grant him the time if he can promise they will join us if the Likud does not come through by the end of that week. In this case, I am ready; but I will not agree to a senseless postponement.

[Raz] Do you see any possibility of finding a compromise by Sunday?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think it [not further specified] was designed to create a rift, not a compromise. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Yitzhaq Rabin's participation in the meeting gave the contacts a new dimension in the eyes of the SHAS leaders.

[Rabin] All we did at this meeting was discuss political issues. I have done my best to explain that in the absence of an affirmative reply to Secretary Baker's question, there is in fact no political process. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Circles close to the prime minister said last night the Alignment must be ready to discuss, first of all, issues raised by the Likud—East Jerusalem and the PLO—after which progress will become possible. They further said there are going to be clandestine contacts with Rabin to ensure the Labor Party Central Committee does not decide to disband the government on Monday.

[Rabin] You have said something I simply have no idea about.

[Raz] Could you tell us what you will do if they appeal to you? Or, perhaps, will you initiate an appeal to them?

[Rabin] You said someone in the Likud is waiting. I know nothing about it.

[Raz] With the ongoing crisis in the background, Minister Peretz says SHAS will support conducting early elections. The Alignment, on its part, last night broadened the circle of its talks with the religious camp.

U.S. Conditions for PLO Role in Talks Cited

TA0803143390 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
7 Mar 90 pp 1, 11

["Exclusive" to AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] U.S., West European, and Arab diplomatic sources have stated the United States recently asked the PLO to agree on the following conditions for launching the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue:

1. The PLO will refrain from issuing any statement or declaration announcing the PLO itself formed the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with the Israelis. The PLO will pledge not to announce, either before or after the beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, that it had formed the delegation. In return, the PLO will agree another party acceptable to it will announce the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Should the PLO announce later it had formed the delegation, and if this causes the termination of the dialogue upon Israel's request, the PLO will bear responsibility for the dialogue's termination.

2. The PLO will refrain from imposing any Palestinian as a member in the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with the Israelis if Israel opposes that Palestinian's presence. Consequently, the makeup of the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue must be acceptable to Israel, as well as to the United States and Egypt. The PLO must realize this.

3. The PLO alone will not compose the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with the Israelis; the delegation will be formed through consultation between the PLO and Egypt, between Egypt and the United States, and between the United States and Israel.

4. The PLO will hand over a list of its nominees for the Palestinian delegation before the convocation of the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers meeting. Egypt, as well as the United States and Israel, can alter the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. This will be done through consultation and coordination between Egypt and the PLO. No definite and final date for launching the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will be set before agreement on the names of the Palestinian delegation's members is reached.

5. The PLO cannot directly oppose the mode of the composition of the Israeli delegation for the dialogue with the Palestinians, but it can express its opinions in an unofficial and noncommittal manner and convey them to Egypt and the United States.

6. The PLO agrees not to place the Palestinian flag on the negotiating table during the sessions of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The PLO will accept that the flag of the host country be shown.

7. The PLO agrees the principal and only issue raised for discussion during the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue meetings will be the issue of elections in the West Bank and Gaza and anything connected with them. Upon the launching of the dialogue, any other topic raised by the head of the Palestinian delegation that is outside the framework of elections will necessarily not be discussed at the Palestinian-Israeli talks, but will remain as a Palestinian request that will be looked into "at the appropriate time." The United States is prepared to discuss other matters in this dialogue other than elections, but will not give prior guarantees regarding this.

8. The PLO will not intervene either directly or officially in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, nor will it directly present any request or proposal to the dialogue; it can, however, hold contacts and consultations, in an unofficial and unpublicized manner, with members of the Palestinian delegation during the dialogue's sessions. If the PLO has a viewpoint or a demand regarding the dialogue's sessions, it can so inform Egypt or the United States.

9. The PLO agrees the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue be conducted outside the framework of the international peace conference, as well as outside the framework of UN auspices or that of the Security Council's five permanent member states.

10. The PLO agrees on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza without UN supervision and without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from these occupied Arab territories. Within the context of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, agreement might be reached on a suitable formula for a specific international presence (the presence of observers from some countries) during the election process.

11. The PLO agrees the elected Palestinians will undertake the task of negotiating with the Israeli authorities on the arrangements and nature of Palestinian self-rule in these territories for a specific period of time.

12. The PLO undertakes to accept the results of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as the results of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue achieved during its course. The PLO can neither object to nor reject these results.

13. Should the PLO have any specific demands or proposals, it cannot present them directly to Israeli officials, but can present them to the Palestinian delegation or to Egypt and the United States. Such demands and proposals are not binding on any party.

These are the concessions required from the PLO for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to begin and elections be conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is clear from these concessions they very much contravene the principles and bases on which the PLO is proclaiming its commitment for launching the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. These principles and bases were defined in five points to which the Palestinian Central Council affirmed its commitment during its meeting in Baghdad last October. The PLO is still proclaiming its adherence to these points. These five points are as follows:

1. Only the PLO has the right to form the Palestinian delegation (for the dialogue with the Israelis) from inside and outside.

2. This dialogue is considered as preparatory talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides toward the convocation of the international peace conference, which constitutes the only appropriate framework for negotiations.

3. The Palestinian position in the talks is based on the Palestinian peace initiative, which relies on international legitimacy and a commitment to this initiative.

4. The dialogue's agenda will be open and without preconditions.

5. The preparatory dialogue meeting will be attended by delegations from the Security Council's five permanent member states, the UN secretary general, and representatives of the other parties concerned, including Egypt and Sweden.

The question now is: Has the PLO leadership agreed to make all these concessions?

Reports confirmed by informed sources indicate the PLO so far has not agreed to respond favorably to these demands and to make all these concessions for the purpose of launching the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, although the Palestinian leadership has agreed to moderate its positions regarding some of the issues to facilitate the launching of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

These reports add that contacts currently are continuing between all the parties concerned with the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue regarding the concessions required from the PLO.

PLO 'Rejected' U.S. Conditions for Talks Role

TA0803164990 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
8 Mar 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] The PLO has rejected a demand presented by the United States consisting of several "requests" that would allow the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on Israel and force it to accept the clarifications provided by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Informed Palestinian sources say that in a note delivered directly to the PLO, Washington informed it these requests will push the political moves forward.

These sources affirm the PLO quickly rejected the requests in a reply note conveyed directly to Washington. The response contained the expression: Some of the requests concern issues that are inviolable. Consequently, should the United States insist on its requests, it would be better to stop the U.S. efforts!

These reports affirm that a serious U.S. report, based in part on warnings conveyed by a number of Arab capitals to Washington, was placed before U.S. President George Bush and his senior aides, and that he immediately embarked on intensive contacts with the Jewish leadership in the United States so they too would exert pressure on Israel.

Labor To Discuss Government 'Continued Existence'*TA0803181290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today it is not at all terrible for the internal debate in Israel to last another week or two and for decisions pertaining to the peace process to be made after it ends. Mr. Shamir stressed that in the Inner Cabinet discussion on Sunday [11 March] he will repel all attacks on the interests of the State of Israel.

According to him, the question Secretary of State James Baker has presented to the government is less important than Jerusalem's status and the danger of the PLO taking over the Palestinian delegation. He added the Alignment wants only a positive answer to Baker's question. This question, nonetheless, is dwarfed by the two problems the Likud has raised. We first must decide on Jerusalem and the PLO, and only later answer Baker. After all, the United States is not holding a stopwatch in hand. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister made these remarks during a visit to Galilee.

Degel Hatora Knesset members are conferring at this time with the prime minister in his office. The reason for the meeting is to brief them on Israel's peace initiative, and mainly on the prime minister's stand on Jerusalem. This morning the prime minister met representatives of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

The Labor Party Central Committee will convene on Monday to discuss the continued existence of the government. The Labor Party Bureau this evening authorized the party's secretary general to summon the Central Committee.

The Moledet Knesset faction has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government due to what it terms the government's surrender to the dictates of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. This was reported by our correspondent, Ze'ev Kohen.

Details of Peres' Outline for Narrow Government*TA0903115590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
9 Mar 90 p 2*

[By Ilan Kfir]

[Text] In meetings with his associates during the past few days, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has consolidated the proposed shape of the narrow government he wishes to set up, if he succeeds in bringing about the downfall of the Cabinet in the no-confidence vote on Tuesday. Peres' move remains conditional upon the Inner Cabinet's failure to make a decision or a negative response by Shamir and the Likud to Baker's initiative.

Peres' cabinet looks more or less like this: Yitzhaq Rabin, defense minister; Moshe Shahal, foreign minister (he was favored over Weizman and Beilin); Arye Deri,

finance minister; Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, interior minister and vice prime minister.

Peres wishes to include in his government members of the Alignment, Agudat Yisra'el (should that party refuse to accept ministerial portfolios, it will be put in charge of government ministries), SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Degel Hatora, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy. The door probably will be open for the National Religious Party to join as well.

Peres plans to distribute portfolios to several newcomers from among the ranks of the Alignment Knesset members [MK's]. This week Peres told former Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am: "'Uzi, you are in." Other candidates for ministerial positions are Hayim Ramon, Ora Namir, Yosi Beilin, Mikha Harish, Nisim Zvili, and David Liba'i. Peres may not include in his cabinet some of the Alignment old-timers, such as Yitzhaq Navon, Hayim Bar-Lev, and perhaps also Mordekhay Gur, although Alignment ministers believe Peres may run into some difficulties with Rabin in Gur's case.

Peres is designating two portfolios to SHAS, but it may demand a third for MK Refa'el Pinhasi. Agudat Yisra'el will get two portfolios or, alternatively, responsibility for two ministries—apparently Construction and Housing, and Labor and Social Affairs. Degel Hatora will get one portfolio, the CRM will get two, and Shinuy and MAPAM one each. The chief negotiators with the religious parties are Peres' cronies Rafi Edri and Yosi Beilin. Peres himself held contacts with them openly yesterday.

7 Mar Inner Cabinet Deliberations Detailed*TA0803172690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 Mar 90 pp A1, 6*

[By Ilan Shehori, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Dan Margalit; all quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] Senior Likud and Labor Party elements launched a concerted effort last night in a bid to find a compromise formula that will satisfy the demands of the Likud and the Alignment when they are called upon Sunday at the Inner Cabinet to decide—despite the tension and bitter feud between the two parties, as was manifested in yesterday's Inner Cabinet session.

The Likud is directing its main efforts toward Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, while assuming Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will become more intransigent and will try to prevent any Labor Party concession, hoping to lead to the dissolution of the Cabinet.

Labor Party and Likud ministers expressed their opinion last night that the time-out between the adjournment of the Inner Cabinet yesterday and the resumption of its session on Sunday would be sufficient to try to bridge the partisan differences and lead to an agreed formula, through mutual concessions by both the Likud and the

Labor Party, so it would be possible to respond favorably to the U.S. initiative and at the same time secure a united Likud-Alignment position during the Cairo meeting.

Defense Minister Rabin said yesterday that perhaps by Sunday everyone will come to his senses, making it possible to provide Baker with a positive answer and separately work out the problems that need to be clarified between the Likud and the Alignment regarding the next stages of the process.

Minister Mordekhay Gur said last night he is initiating a solution that will result in the continued existence of the government. Gur is convinced that by Sunday or Monday a formula will be found to permit the continued partnership in the government. "It seems strange that while the two parties agree on the principle that it is necessary to promote the political initiative and provide positive responses to Baker, all of a sudden, due to internal struggles between the Likud and the Labor Party, the government should dissolve. It does not make sense, and I believe it will be possible to reach an agreement by Sunday. I myself will try to work on some suggestions," said Gur.

During the Inner Cabinet session yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir described in great detail his telephone conversation last Thursday [1 March] with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker:

"He called unexpectedly. I just saw him on television a few minutes earlier, talking about the connection between the loan and the settlements. I told him I wanted to comment.

"He said that a lot of time has passed and he still had not received an answer: 'I would like a response.'

"I told him I had no intention of dragging out the process. 'These are serious matters, requiring a lot of thinking and careful consideration. We must discuss not only our positions vis-a-vis the United States and the Arabs, but also vis-a-vis our partners.'"

This is how the telephone conversation continued, as relayed by Shamir yesterday:

Baker: I understand, but I would still like an answer as soon as possible. I do not wish to drag this out any longer.

Shamir: Jerusalem is an important problem.

Baker: Indeed it will be broached, but I can tell you what will happen: You will vote against, the Arabs will vote for.

Shamir: And what will your position be?

Baker: We will see.

Shamir: We will see?! Why, this is not something that will be raised for discussion after a while; it will be the only thing that will be broached at the meeting.

Baker: So make up your minds.

After Shamir finished describing the conversation, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said: "The PLO has detailed plans for ways to explain to the world the delegation consults with and is guided by it. Baker said he would not give Israel carte blanche. How can one tell what will happen? He is not prepared to promise that in any case, should Israel be forced to leave, the United States would stand by its side. 'You will have to trust us,' he said. I said we cannot trust you, because when it comes to the PLO, we differ in our views. I asked to go back to Baker to discuss the possible scenarios of the PLO's entering the process before we go to Cairo.

Peres: You claim the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs expresses our readiness to cede the city. Why are you ready to allow a Hebron or Nabulus resident to participate? Are you prepared to give these places up? If your solution is for the Likud's voice to be the single voice that will be heard, then you can forget it. Even when we discussed Baker's five points and you suggested we put our objection to any contact—direct or indirect—with the PLO in writing, we deleted that, and you even agreed to forgo the word "indirect". But you know very well to whom the United States talks, and to whom Egypt talks.

Arens: What do we need a delegation for? Are they election experts? This insistence on the deportees is meant to emphasize that the negotiations involve the Palestinian diaspora as well. We all know there is no need for deportees. They only can spoil things. The peace initiative, furthermore, likewise does not mention deportees.

Rabin: Nor does it say the opposite.

Arens: There is a campaign against us regarding East Jerusalem. The question of who will be represented and who will vote consequently is part of that campaign, which is intended to beat us down. That is why we do not want East Jerusalem representatives to sit down in Cairo. Those who support this are the Arab world, the PLO, and the United States.

Rabin: From my point of view, let the PLO declare in Tunis that the delegation belongs to it. So what? Why should we give the PLO the right to veto the next stage of the deliberations? But if the delegation announces of its own accord it represents the PLO, that would be substantially different. I therefore agree that in the preparation for the meeting these two categories be clarified, but it does not form part of the response to the United States.

Shamir: I hear today that the PLO's standing in the territories has weakened. Yet your views strengthen it.

Peres: I think you created a situation that strengthened the PLO when you shut the door on the Jordanian option.

Rabin: The basis is the population census in the territories. Therefore, there is no digression from the Cabinet's resolutions that Jerusalem will not be part of the autonomy. The Likud granted the PLO the right to veto the Cairo talks. There is a firm basis for decisions to be made.

The draft resolution Peres submitted to the Inner Cabinet is as follows: Based on the Israeli Government's initiative of 14 May 1989, the Inner Cabinet resolves:

1. To respond favorably to the U.S. secretary of state's question: "Is Israel prepared to contemplate readiness to include any Palestinian who is a resident of the territories on the basis of names?"

2. This response by the Inner Cabinet is based on the understanding sought by the U.S. secretary of state: "The Palestinian delegation also will include deportees and residents of the territories with dual residences—in other words, residents of the territories who have an apartment or a business in East Jerusalem." [passage omitted]

Husayn Blames U.S. for Immigration 'Crisis'

JN0803131290 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has expressed hope that the United States will use its influence to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In an interview published today by the French newspaper LE FIGARO, his majesty said the U.S. has great influence in the world today, and that it can decide to use it to settle Middle East problems.

His majesty pointed out that the U.S. is responsible for the crisis created by the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories. He asserted that Washington has continuously struggled to facilitate means for Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel, instead of allowing those who wished to settle in the U.S. to do so. His majesty said he supports the right of anyone to live wherever he wants, but as for settling Jews in the occupied territories, his majesty added, this would mean driving people out of their homeland to settle others on the land that belongs to the Palestinians.

Editorial Agrees With Husayn

JN0903090090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
9 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Jewish Emigration and U.S. Responsibility"]

[Text] With utmost frankness and clarity, His Majesty King Husayn stressed in his statement to the French newspaper LE FIGARO that the United States is the party directly responsible for the crisis created by the immigration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and that this superpower introduced an explosive element to an already highly volatile situation.

It has become completely certain the pressure applied during many years by the U.S. Administration and Congress on the Soviet Union ultimately has led to opening the door wide for the immigration of Jews and the influx of thousands of immigrants every month, not only from the USSR, but also from other Eastern European countries, into the occupied Arab territories.

In applying heavy pressure on the Soviet Union to open the door of emigration to Jews, the United States raised the slogan of the defense of fundamental human rights, including man's right to emigrate and to live wherever he wants. However, when the Soviet door of emigration was opened, the U.S. door, usually open to immigrants of all races and religions, was closed tightly in the face of the Jewish immigrants.

It thus would seem the slogan of human rights long raised by the United States meant, in fact, only the right of Jews to immigrate and move to the lands of another people whose country was occupied and rights usurped. This prompts us to ask bitterly: Why does the United

States not act according to the same moral criterion when it comes to the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland?

As we very clearly see the fingers of the United States throughout all the phases that finally drove the Soviet Union to fully respond to the pressure to unleash Jewish immigration, we hold this superpower totally responsible for the implications this immigration entails. This includes encouraging Israeli extremism and the reinforcement of the Zionists' expansionist policy, with the new wars and heavy bloodshed this may signify.

Reportage on King Husayn's United Kingdom Visit

WA0803144290

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to the United Kingdom, please see the United Kingdom section of the 8 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

King's Adviser Defends Proposed National Charter

JN0803084290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8-9 Mar 90 p 1

[By Salamah B. Ni'matt, "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's democratic transition needs the proposed national charter to guarantee a political pluralism that would unite forces towards development rather than engage in a destructive struggle over political domination, a senior aide to His Majesty King Husayn said Wednesday.

Delivering a lecture at the Royal Cultural Centre, 'Adnan Abu-Awdah, the King's political advisor, defended the proposed charter against assertions that the idea was unconstitutional and unnecessary for political action already guaranteed by the constitution.

"The charter was not proposed so as to deprive any party from political action," 'Abu-Awdah told an audience of nearly 500 people. "It was proposed to enhance political life and safeguard against having political forces paralyzing and cancelling each other."

'Abu-Awdah argued that the state "would be paralysed and its forces scattered" in the absence of a common understanding to major divisive issues and challenges facing the Kingdom through the drafting of a charter endorsed by a plebiscite.

"Over 50 years, our society has not succeeded in maturing," he remarked. "We are entering a new phase that dictates that we learn democracy and understand its requirements."

In his lecture entitled "the parliament of the future," 'Abu-Awdah outlined his view of the requirements for democratic dialogue:

—No one party or person has a monopoly on the truth;

- The respect of the opinions of others;
- Shunning personalisation and debating ideas and not individuals;
- Conducting dialogue based on information and facts;
- Accepting the principle of participation.

Furthermore, 'Abu-'Awdah said, "Democracy has its unwritten rules.

"Parliament can paralyse the state and the executive branch in the process of carrying out its duties," he warned. "It is important to activate the role of the state, and Parliament should serve to compliment the state in carrying out its duties."

The democratic transition, he explained, "was the product of the meeting, half-way, between the leadership and the peoples. It was a broad national decision."

Identifying handicaps that face Jordan's democratisation process, the former Royal Court minister said the novelty of the experience and Jordan's patriarchal system formed an obstacle for the process. He said that one of the requirements for democracy was liberal thinking which "is unfamiliar to Jordanian society."

The democratic transition, he added, "came against the backdrop of economic and financial difficulties and tension produced by cultural and civilizational differences with the rest of the world.

He said positive elements include a consensus on democracy, the leadership's concern that it succeeds, an acceptance of the principle of participation, moderation, a progressive constitution, a conducive social structure, a national awareness of existing threats, a high education rate and a consensus over democracy's importance for national unity.

Fending off criticism of his prominent role in former administrations, 'Abu 'Awdah, who served as cabinet members in several former governments, said: "We are talking about a new era. The state was going in the wrong direction but things have changed. You can hold me accountable in the future but what we did in the past... was a course followed by the whole state."

Responding to charges of taking part in oppressing people in previous governments, he said: "it is all a matter of perception. What you may see as an oppression, I would see as guidance to what the state then saw as right. We must abandon this vindictive spirit and the urge for vengeance. How can the state benefit from this vengeance?"

Responding to a question on what promoted the democratisation process, 'Abu-'Awdah reminded the audience that the King's decision to democratise was taken before the April 1989 price riots. "The call for elections came in 1988—eight months before the riots."

Asked whether Jordan would one day turn to Islam as a system of government, 'Abu-'Awdah said the Kingdom

was already an Islamic state and "we are all Muslims in a Muslim state and practice Islam at all levels. That's as Islamic as we need to be."

Chamber of Commerce Head on Foreign Labor, Prices

JN0803130890 Amman THE STAR in English
8-14 Mar 90 p 9

[By staff writer]

[Text] Amman—The President of Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Mr Muhammad 'Asfur, has said that there is an ongoing dialogue between the private sector and the government to encourage long and short-term investments in the country, while "re-activating" the role of the private sector. In a special interview with THE STAR Mr 'Asfur said priority will go to small-size industries "which can absorb the largest number of Jordanian labour."

Mr 'Asfur was critical of the Ministry of Labour decision to ban foreign workers from renewing their working permits. He said the ban does not help solve the problem of unemployment in Jordan since figures show that while the country has over 300,000 foreign workers, the number of unemployed Jordanians did not exceed, 70,000. "This means you will still have over 220,000 foreign workers needed in various sectors," Mr 'Asfur said.

He said unemployment was mainly among skilled Jordanians, while foreign workers were involved in unskilled jobs. He suggested that the needs and potentials of each labour sector be studied independently of other sectors before labour regulations are issued. Mr 'Asfur said that foreign workers are ready to work in almost any sector, putting long hours without complaints, while Jordanian workers are very demanding.

Mr 'Asfur said the pressure on foreign workers has subsided lately because of the threats of local bakeries' owners, who employ a large number of unskilled Egyptians. The bakeries' owners were demanding that the government exempt their workers from the work permit fees.

He said that in order for the private sector to get involved in the present stage of economic restructuring, a number of steps should be taken mainly by the government. "The basic infrastructure should be prepared whereby the government creates a suitable investment climate through passing of necessary laws." He also stressed the need for the free movement of the private sector, doing away with bureaucratic constraints and giving incentives to local and foreign private sectors. In addition to all this he called for an end to "psychological hostilities against the private sector by the public sector."

Mr 'Asfur said there are no clear economic indicators to point to an improvement in the economic recession in

the near future, but added that the private sector is doing every thing possible to improve the situation. He said the Chamber is working on a public awareness campaign through organising seminars and publishing articles to highlight the role of the private sector in economic activity.

He could not confirm if the prices of consumer goods will stabilise at their current scale, because imports are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations. "Most of our consumer goods are imported from Europe and European currencies are rising constantly," Mr 'Asfur said. But he also noted that the Chamber is "co-operating" with the legislative and the executive authorities in order to work out a formula for pricing.

While the Ministry of Trade and Industry is responding positively to the Chamber's requests, the Ministry of Supply is "backing away from its responsibility." He said that with the Ramadan fasting season approaching, a pricing formula has to be agreed upon. "They (the Ministry of Supply and the Lower House Financial Committee) must understand that commerce cannot function on losses," Mr 'Asfur said. "Without a margin of profit merchants cannot function."

He said all consumer goods will be available so long as the government sets prices that give "a reasonable profit margin" to the three sectors of traders, namely; importers (whole-salers), distributors and retailers.

Musawi Says Hostage Solution Tied to Iran, Syria*LD0703124'90 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT
7 Mar 90*

[Text] Damascus, March 7, IRNA—Husayn Musawi (Abu Husham) member of the Hizballah Council Tuesday hoped that the release of hostages in Lebanon would "ensure the interests of the oppressed and Muslim people of Lebanon." Speaking to IRNA here, he said coordination between Iran and Syria is the only way to solve the problem.

He expressed sorrow for the killing of Lebanese people both Muslims and Christians adding that only the fall of Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' could end the existing tragedy in eastern Beirut.

The Hizballah official said that the Hizballah is hopeful about the efforts of Iran and Syria on the implementation of the Tehran-Damascus agreements to solve disputes between the two Lebanese rival movements, Amal and Hizballah.

Sources Claim 'Kidnappers' Pressuring Iran*NC0803171490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] Unofficial sources have reported that the kidnappers of American hostages are trying to pressure Iran to consider their demands in the event an agreement is reached with Washington regarding the hostages' release.

'Awn Says Fighting Over; Ready for Talks*LD0903011190 Hamburg DPA in German 2341 GMT
8 Mar 90*

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn said today that the fighting between the rival Christian factions was over and would not flare up again in Beirut. In an interview given to DPA in his bunker to the east of the Lebanese capital, 'Awn also stated his readiness to take up talks, which he has so far rejected, on the Arab Ta'if peace plan of 21 October 1989. He said that dialogue was now required, not the use of violence.

He believed that the "absurdity" of the recent fighting (with the militia of his Christian opponent Samir Geagea) had shown that "force can never solve any conflict in Lebanon, and only through dialogue can we settle our differences." The general said he also extended a "fraternal hand" to Syria, between whose troops stationed in Lebanon and the 'Awn army there were violent battles last year.

Desires 'New Dialogue' on Al-Ta'if*NC0903065990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] In an interview published in AL-NAHAR today, General Michel 'Awn expressed a desire for a new

dialogue without preconditions provided that the al-Ta'if agreement is not considered a divine book on which the dialogue must be based. He said that the resulting solution might be the al-Ta'if agreement plus a comma or else something that differs completely from this agreement. He added that the war in the eastern area was a self-destructive war which proved that a solution cannot be attained through violence but through dialogue only. He stressed there will be no war in the eastern area and no war between the eastern and western areas after today.

AFP on Mediators' Efforts in Eastern Area*NC0903073990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] AFP reports that the mediators in the eastern area are striving to establish coexistence between General Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces in order to shelve the dispute pending the achievement of a political settlement.

The agency quotes mediation committee member Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman as saying: Priority will always be given to normalization on the ground. Our efforts are progressing slowly, but this important thing is to achieve a political settlement and to normalize the situation on the ground.

Sources in the political and security committees working for a solution said the normalization process in the free areas is proceeding steadily and that the Lebanese Forces and the Army are fully responding with the normalization steps, particularly by implementing the pledges made to the mediation committee.

Security Efforts Suspended, New Violence Expected*NC0803175690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] According to security reports received from the eastern area, the removal of barricades, barriers, and mines from the newly created confrontation lines between 'Awn's forces and the Lebanese Forces has stopped. This is due to the deeply rooted political disputes between the two conflicting parties. Media sources expected a new wave of violence to sweep the area in what could be the decisive battle between the two sides.

Meanwhile, the security committee has also suspended its efforts and this has increased the citizens' fears. The citizens have continued to leave for abroad. Also, the propaganda campaign between the two parties has been resumed. 'Awn's media have accused the Lebanese Forces of obstructing all the peaceful efforts while Ja'ja's media have accused Michel 'Awn of being behind the frustration of the mediation committee's efforts and of raising obstacles before the committee.

Eastern Area Newspapers To Resume Publication

NC0903133690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The local press establishments will be resuming their normal activities now that the security situation has stabilized and roads have been opened in the eastern areas. AL-DIYAR has asked its employees to report to work tomorrow so that the paper can be issued on Sunday. AL-BAYRAQ will also appear on Monday morning.

Israeli Planes Raid Southern Military Positions

NC0903111990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes have in been carrying out air raids on military positions in the south for about 20 minutes now. The aerial bombardment was continuing as this bulletin was being prepared.

Attack PFLP Position in North

NC0903114690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Our correspondent in the north says a formation of six Israeli enemy aircraft attacked a position belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] near Hayyan area in 'Akkar at about 1230 today. No casualty reports are available as yet. According to our correspondent, ambulances rushed to the scene. He said two planes carried out the raid while the other four provided cover. The raiding aircraft were seen dropping bombs, rockets, and thermal balloons.

'Extreme Tension Prevails' East of Sidon

NC0903122690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Extreme tension prevails on the combat lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir, east of Sidon, amid the continued exchange of automatic weapon fire between positions of the Popular Liberation Army—Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces and the agent Lahd militia. The same combat lines were the scene of heavy clashes this morning during which all types of automatic weapons and rockets were used.

Before noon today antiaircraft fire was directed at Israeli military aircraft, which flew over Sidon and the camps and broke the sound barrier at low altitude.

Sha'ban Calls for Amal, Hizballah To Unite

NC0803191090 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement, has called on all Muslims and strugglers in Lebanon to topple political

Maronism, drive it from the political scene, and eradicate its anti-Islamic conspiratorial roots. Shaykh Sha'ban, who is visiting Tehran, declared in a statement today his support for the Muslim strugglers' jihad operations in Lebanon against the forces of arrogance. He added that those who bargain with the Zionist entity are shameless traitors and noted that the leaders of Maronism all seek to fulfill the Zionists' hegemonic objectives in this Islamic land.

Shaykh Sha'ban urged Hizballah and Amal to put aside their marginal and fruitless disagreements, unite to uphold the word of God in Lebanon, and carry out jihad operations against the Zionists in southern Lebanon. His eminence also called on the Muslim brothers in Jordan to lay the appropriate foundations for establishing an Islamic government and starting a jihad against the Zionists.

Hizballah Announces Peace Initiative With Amal

NC0903080190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] To mark the anniversary of the birthday of al-Imam al-Mahdi al-Hujjah Ibn-al-Hasan, Hizballah launched an initiative which will lead to a comprehensive, genuine, and radical solution to the entire problem between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. It will also guarantee the Damascus and Tehran accords are actually implemented.

The initiative provides for:

1. Both parties' commitment to a complete and comprehensive cease-fire;
2. Return of the displaced people to their villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah;
3. Return of the homeless to their villages in Tyre and al-Nabatiyah; and
4. Initiating a political dialogue between the two sides to implement the Damascus accord.

Amal, Hizballah Fight in Southern Suburb

NC0903104890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The Amal Movement and Hizballah have been fighting intermittently with automatic weapons and some rockets for the past 15 minutes in the al-Awza'i area in the Southern Suburb. The leaders concerned and the Syrian forces are trying to contain these clashes.

Junblatt Receives Iranian Delegation 7 Mar

LD0703160690 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Beirut, Mar 7, IRNA—An Iranian delegation presented foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's message to Lebanon's Transport Minister Walid Junblatt today.

The delegation which includes Foreign Ministry advisor Ahmad Dastmalchian and the Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Beirut Mohammad Javad Zamanian, also discussed different regional and Lebanese developments as well as mutual relations.

Junblatt who is also leader of the Druzes, condemned the influx of Russian Jews to occupied Palestine, and expressed concern over the stationing of the pro-Arafat Palestinian forces in [the] Iqlim-al-Tuffah region of southern Lebanon. He termed the recent moves in the Middle East, including the increase of 'Arafat forces in Lebanon and the east Beirut events as 'sequels' engineered by global arrogance. "Saddam and 'Arafat are trying to take advantage from this plot," he added.

Junblatt who is also the leader of the Socialist Progressive party of Lebanon elsewhere reiterated that all Islamic and national parties and groups should join hands with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria to fight these plots.

Ja'ja' Interviewed on Political Solution

NC0803172790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The most prominent political stand today is the lengthy interview that Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' gave to AL-NAHAR newspaper, appearing in this morning's edition. In the interview, Dr. Ja'ja' explained the LF position on current developments in the eastern area. He also explained the domestic and regional circumstances surrounding the area.

Asked if a political solution is possible and how successfully it could be implemented, Dr. Ja'ja' said: We are now at the beginning of the 1,000-mile long journey on the return to where we were before the events. The objective is to reach a durable solution, and naturally the first step will be to resolve the security issues. Later on, we will move from normalizing the security and military issues into discussing the political and general situation in the country. If we fail to reach a radical solution to this situation, the military truce will remain fragile. But if we manage to deal positively with the political situation, this will serve as the greatest guarantee of the non-recurrence of fighting and the use of the language of the gun.

Regarding the interpretation of the article dealing with the unification of the gun in the proposed six-point agreement, Dr. Ja'ja' said: What is meant is the unification of military capability. There have been two military forces in Lebanon since the outbreak of incidents in 1975, namely, the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese resistance. Between 1975 and 1982, the LF were better equipped. After 1982, the LF remained well-equipped while the Army became well-equipped and prepared. Then circumstances made it possible for the Army, under the military government led by General 'Awn, to take over. Consequently, there are two military forces in

the eastern area, and it is my belief that we must safeguard both, not just one and at the expense of the other. We also have to unify military efforts and coordinate military action so that a common objective can be envisaged for a common strategy. This is our understanding of the unification of the military efforts.

Asked who will be in charge of the military decisionmaking, he said it will be in the hands of the political authority [al-sultah] in the eastern area as represented by the national authority [al-marji'iyah al-wataniyah] that will be set up. He emphasized that there are no problems regarding the composition of this authority.

Regarding political efforts to reach a final solution, Dr. Ja'ja' said: We must find a way out of the current political impasse, which has caused social, economic, educational, administrative, and diplomatic problems. One of the causes of the outbreak of fighting in the eastern area was perhaps the tension, for confinement leads to friction, as the proverb goes. He pointed out that the political authority will examine the general political situation to reach a solution that could bring the eastern area out of the current impasse. We will discuss the political issues after normalizing the military situation, which needs two or three days.

Dr. Ja'ja' said there is a common understanding between the Army and the LF on the unification of the gun, and it will materialize in a joint military command.

Asked if the fighting has ceased as a result of the military situation on the ground or because of French-Vatican intervention, he said: The military operations stopped because of several military, political, popular, and clerical factors. He noted that France and the Vatican warned against possible Syrian intervention in East Beirut should the fighting continue. Dr. Ja'ja' noted that the LF had done their best to prevent the outbreak of fighting in the eastern area, but the fighting occurred despite all this, leading to these horrifying results that no one had anticipated.

Asked about a possible confrontation between the eastern and western areas and the return of the struggle over finance and diplomacy and other measures before the recent events, he said: Why a confrontation and not an understanding or a dialogue? He added: It is time to exert all possible efforts to end the state of war, and everyone must be convinced that after 15 years of war it is impossible for any party to impose its opinion on another. There is only one solution: To sit at the negotiating table and discuss all possible solutions. The LF has a proposal for a solution, and the other parties should come up with their own proposals for discussion. We in the LF are ready to discuss any proposal, except the partition of Lebanon or the return of the 1943 model, which means the death of Lebanon. In our opinion, we believe federation remains the best solution. Even in the al-Ta'if accord, there is an article stipulating decentralization.

Asked what if political and economic pressure were put on the eastern area, Dr. Ja'ja' said this matter will be discussed by the political authority.

He was then asked to respond to the comment: Some believe the illegitimate armed presence in or outside the eastern area could be terminated. He said: The illegitimate armed presence came about because the state established on the 1943 system had collapsed, and we must set up a state that is not based on the 1943 model, which has proved to be a failure and proved its inability to establish a strong state with effective institutions. If we manage to build a state that could fill this vacuum, the illegitimate arms will inevitably be eliminated. We, as a Lebanese resistance, are not illegitimate gunmen. We are legitimate gunmen par excellence.

The legitimacy in Lebanon has been gone since 1975, and there will be no legitimacy without our struggle and efforts and without our backing for it. Our work is not intended to strengthen and enhance our own capabilities as much as it is meant to find a state that could ensure security, freedom, and stability for all the Lebanese. Once such a state exists, all illegitimate arms will be eliminated. We believe that ours are legitimate arms whose existence will no longer be needed once there is a unified state capable of extending its sovereignty throughout the Lebanese territories. This is the kind of state that we are working daily to establish and which we want to see as a federation. Only then could Lebanon live in peace.

Dr. Ja'ja' was asked: Is the state currently proposed on the basis of al-Ta'if accord rejected? He answered: The al-Ta'if accord is not heavenly inspired. It contains several articles and it will be presented to the cabinet for discussion before it becomes law.

He was asked: Which cabinet, the current one? He answered: Certainly not, because it is not balanced.

Asked if he is ready to enter the government to take part in discussing the al-Ta'if agreement, Dr. Ja'ja' said: This issue concerns the general situation, and the issue is not one of joining the government or not. The matter will be presented to the political authority for discussion, and a

unified decision regarding the general situation will be made by all parties in the eastern areas.

Asked if the political authority will reach an identical position over all the major issues it will discuss, he said: Of course. We hope the decisions will be reached unanimously, and if not, by majority.

Asked about the idea of preparing for general parliamentary elections, he said: Theoretically, I agree with this idea, considering that Lebanese under the age of 40 have not given their opinion on the political authority. In addition, some of the deputies could not keep up with events. But in practice, how can elections be held in the areas in which foreign forces are present? This matter needs study.

Asked if he considers the appointment a better idea, he said: Both elections and appointment need careful study, and I cannot say I favor one over the other, but it is essential to find a way to restructure the political power, particularly the legislative, so that it better represents and reflects the will of the people.

Asked if elections could be held after two years, that is, after the Syrian withdrawal, the unification of the army, and the extension of sovereignty over the majority of Lebanese territories in accordance with al-Ta'if agreement, he said: Theoretically, the idea is acceptable and sounds good and even excellent to an observer, but I cannot tell. It depends on how it will be put into effect, because it needs study and assessment.

Asked if there is an international decision to hold the elections as a solution, he said: In my opinion, there is no clear international decision.

On what he wants to say to the Lebanese people in general and the people in the eastern area in particular, he said: I call on all the Lebanese factions to sit at the negotiating table to discuss things and find a suitable solution. We must disregard all tribal feuds, personal considerations, and foreign interferences that could stand in the way. Only then and we reach an agreement to build a new Lebanon that will eliminate injustices done to some sects and the fear harbored by some others.

Al-Asad Addresses 8 Mar Anniversary Rally

JN0803151090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1131 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad marking the 27th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution and the opening of the fifth congress of the Syrian Revolution Youth Federation at the al-Fayha' Sports Palace in Damascus—live]

[Text] Brother citizens, O young sons and daughters, it pleases me that this celebration brings us together today to share our people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution. [applause] We will all greet the 28th year of the revolution's life with the same spirit and determination that characterized our struggle and action during the past years.

The years of the revolution's life constitute links of progress and rows of stones in the wall of a building. Throughout those years, we proceeded from the starting point on the road of revolutionary action, which had profound significance and multifaced dimensions, including changing the situation we had rejected and establishing in its place the situation we wanted, and starting the development and organization to achieve our supreme objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. Revolutionary action, in its beginnings, made efforts and bore sufferings that paved the way and laid the foundations for happiness and prosperity—the stage in which the people, of all classes, reap the delicious fruit of struggle and the rich results of development, and they harvest what they have planted through sweat, effort, patience, and faith. Just like the large tree, whose roots become entrenched with the passage of time, the revolutionary march gains strength and firmness with the passage of years, and gains the ability to entrench the principles that shaped its beginnings and to accelerate toward its objectives.

For 27 years, people and institutions, we overcame the most difficult stages—the stages of hard work and effort. We have worked hard and with persistence and determination. We have been concerned about what is right in words and deeds. Wherever we found a mistake, we managed to correct it, and wherever we found something wrong, we rectified it. We faced difficulties and overcame them. We faced obstacles, but we surmounted them. Our revolutionary march faced plots and conspiracies, but we foiled them. Today, as we have always been, we will continue to stand on solid ground, our feet are firm and our march is firm and continuing, and it gains further strength and impregnability, because it is the march of the people and the masses. This march came out of the ranks of the people and has continued with the people's power. A march whose objective is to serve the people's vital desires and interests is a march whose road is being lit by a bright light that prevents it from stumbling or deviating from its proper path. We have a strong faith that life is a continuous revolution; that man is the revolution's tool, starting point, and goal;

and that the revolution is an effective way to change the situation for the better and be in harmony with man's aspirations. This faith, which I have emphasized before, is the motivation for our actions and defines our objectives and guides our policy and plans. On the basis of this faith, we have made several great and large-scale achievements, which continue to be made under the revolution. This faith was also the reason for our successes and victories, for the sake of which we exerted great efforts and sacrificed our blood to defend our homeland and nation's territory, rights, and destiny, and to build the future we want.

When we speak about man, the revolution's tool, starting point, and goal, we first think of the young generation in which we see the comprehensive embodiment of the true nature of man, the tool, the starting point, and the goal. The youth, as I have previously described them, are our future hope. With the bright minds of our youth, we make distances and time shorter. With the arms of youth we elevate and expand the structure, and we cultivate the land and build factories. With the youth, we can increase and improve production. With the youth's courage and faith, the homeland becomes proud and impregnable. [applause]

A greeting to you—youths of Syria. You have chosen to convene the fifth General Congress of the Revolution Youth Federation on the day of this glorious anniversary—the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution. [applause and chanting]

The great development achieved by your organization, the Revolution Youth Federation, during the 19 years since the convocation of your first congress, is a reason for pride. The federation's membership has grown rapidly. You—boys and girls—have taken on the tasks of the Revolution Youth, and proven that you can rise to its level. You have struggled against the forces of reaction and the agents' conspiracies and have embraced the ideals of the revolutionaries. When the homeland called on you to bear arms, you bore arms in the fighting against the Zionist enemy and the enemies of the revolution—the subversive group within. You have always been ready to bear arms in defense of our dear homeland. [applause and chanting]

Your organization has played its role by creating generations who believe in their nation and who struggle to achieve their objectives. Your organization has also been noticeably active in many fields: It has held sessions to help eradicate illiteracy, and similar sessions to revitalize the study of pupils and students. You—the youth—have been with the workers in their workshops and factories, with the peasants in their fields and farms, and with the fighters in the battlefields. You have also been trained to carry out many functions, which qualify you for the responsibilities of the future. You have honored the pledge, carried out your duties, and demonstrated loyalty to the party and the homeland. Thus, you have lived up to your responsibility. You embody our hopes. [applause]

Our youth have been brought up to believe in the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [applause]. They have embraced Arab unity as a constant historical fact. They also believed in freedom as a major pillar of life; in socialism as a path to the community of justice and sufficiency. They believed in organization as a basic necessity. Above all, they believed in martyrdom—the greatest of values and the most honorable pledge. They raced toward the immortality of martyrdom. Among them were male and female martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their homeland, which they loved and pledged themselves to serve and defend. You—the youth—know that the word man alone does not make up a full identity, through which we can express our humanity and exercise it. Full identity is the bond between man and place. This place is land. And the homeland is made up of the bond between man and place. Through the homeland—the identity—we express our humanity, which has thus evolved. Thus, this organic, intimate relationship between man in the homeland and the land of the homeland is expressed, because, in effect, they represent two parts of a whole, and are integral unities, each nurturing the other. The land gives to man and enriches him—body and soul. Man gives to the land and enriches it—through his efforts and perspiration. Therefore, it seems axiomatic that each would defend the other, because the part does not exist outside its living framework. It exists within the whole, and the whole has to defend the part to maintain its activity and vigor.

Abandoning this truism means abandoning identity. And abandoning identity means abandoning existence. So it is not strange for patriotism to mean work, sweat, sacrifice, and even martyrdom when necessary, because the homeland denotes both the individual and the place. The individual and the place go together. When the individual does not defend his homeland, it means he is abandoning himself, and this, of course, is inconceivable—hence the origin of the many values in our folklore and culture about the homeland, love of the homeland, and making sacrifices for the sake of the homeland. The homeland is precious, dear, lofty, and steadfast, because the homeland is us, the people. So, let us clearly understand this fact and love our homeland as much as we can. Let our homeland be our first and foremost love. There can be no human life or human existence without a homeland. [applause]

If the individual's link to the place creates national identity, his action within the context of time creates change. Charting a correct course for the movement of change as a result of the interaction of national identity with social existence leads to the achievement of the objective. Continuous revision of the relationship of this movement within the course provides the best means for guaranteeing the achievement of the objective.

O youths, thanks to your efforts and those of your fathers and brothers, the homeland has made great achievements. The peasant has gained his freedom by controlling the source of his livelihood. Electricity has entered his home to become a source of energy from which to

benefit in dealing with life in a better manner. Light has continued after dark, contrary to what existed before. The workers and the other sections of the population have gained their freedom by gaining their rights and controlling their resources and developing them in a manner that serves them and the homeland in general. Universities, colleges, and schools have been established to provide the objective basis for education. An educated person is a free and an intelligent person, and intelligence leads to knowledge. Intelligence helps the individual to make his own decisions wherever he may be in society and whatever his role in social life. Education has also provided an important human base for work. Various industries and economic establishments have been built. Thus, freedom is not something absolute, but a scientific concept which we sense in our practical life. Our country has achieved a great deal on this score.

Still, we do not want to restrict [nahsur] freedom within this framework, which is already broad. We want to say that freedom is tangible exercise and that freedom has many components—cultural, economic, social, national [qawmi], political, and others. Freedom depends on the quantitative and qualitative nature of these components and the healthy relationship between them, or is the outcome of the interaction among all these components.

From another angle, freedom has no meaning without man, the rational creature, because it would then be nonexistent. Any talk about the individual without considering the community is also meaningless, because such an individual would then be nonexistent. Talking about freedom is connected with the individual, and talking about this individual is connected with the community, because freedom belongs to all the members of this community. Here comes the problem of searching for the regulating formula that enables the individuals as a group to exercise their freedom. Without this formula, freedom loses its existence because the situation will then be transformed into anarchy, and this in turn will lead to a multifaceted despotism that can be called the despotism of anarchy. Therefore, we should not at all confuse the issue of restricting freedom with that of regulating the practice of freedom.

Restricting freedom is an aggression upon freedom, but regulating the practice of freedom means protecting and strengthening it. Restricting freedom tarnishes it, but regulating its practice makes it brighter. Restricting freedom means dwarfing it, but regulating its practice means developing it and making it healthy. Restricting freedom will kill its potential, but organizing its practice will revive and promote its energies.

Freedom and its regulations belong side by side. They do not live apart. If they are separated, anarchy and despotism will prevail and freedom and its regulations will disappear. [applause]

Freedom exists with man. It flourishes with him, and erodes with his erosion. Like everything in this universe, freedom needs order. The trees grow in accordance with

a law, and the plants grow within a law. The earth revolves in accordance with a law and the satellites revolve in accordance with a law. The human body itself follows certain rules. When these rules are disturbed, man becomes ill. And if this disturbance is deepened, illness will deepen. If this disturbance reaches extreme limits, the illness will exacerbate and death will follow. Therefore, freedom disappears if its orderliness disappears. However, it continues to exist as long as its orderliness is observed. And when the order is completely disturbed, freedom will be completely absent.

Freedom is connected with its elements, and the rules of freedom are connected with the same elements. Hence, if this order is essentially stable, it will develop performance. It is this performance that should be sought and discussed in light of the various factors and elements connected with it.

We as Syrian Arabs and Ba'thists cannot but be freedom advocates and freedom seekers and fighters for the sake of freedom. [applause]

Therefore, freedom was one of our three major aims; namely, unity, freedom, and socialism. [applause]

The Corrective Movement, which was something we needed, and which was one of the achievements of our party and people, was essentially a victory for freedom and for adherence to freedom. Therefore, I have always reiterated, from the first days of the Corrective Movement, that our strength is in proportion to the freedom we possess, and that our freedom is proportionate to our strength. [applause] I also said: Every restriction on people's freedom will hamper a certain portion of people's resources. We hamper people's resources if we restrict their freedom.

Hence our search for the right formulas of participation. We have performed in accordance with the formula we deemed right, and which has proved suitable on the national, pan-Arab, and international level. This has been borne out by the steadfastness and continued advancement of this country for close to 20 years in all the political, military, economic, and other sectors without suffering one setback, despite all the successive pressures and foreign conspiracies, and their occasional domestic extensions. And yet it will be hard to contend that one particular formula is absolutely setback-proof, since other factors come into play. But the formula of governance or administration, and the various dimensions of public freedom it guarantees, remains the basic rule to ensure the success of the national march.

The orientations of the Corrective Movement in 1970, beginning with its new approach within the party and opening up to the popular masses, through party pluralism that found expression in the parties of the front which now number seven parties, and economic pluralism that was put in place and will remain in three economic sectors—the public, the private, the mixed—and the launching of the Progressive National Front, and backing and expanding the popular organizations and

investing them with powers commensurate with their size and their role in the country and that generally advance the interests of the people, and supporting professional unions and unifying those that had been fragmented—like the lawyers, doctors, and engineers associations when each was split into a number of unions—and enacting the necessary legislation, setting up the People's Assembly and the local administration councils that now exist in practically every town and village and investing them with the right powers, and other achievements by the Corrective Movement has ensured broad popular participation in all institutions of the government and administration where representatives of all are on the council of ministers, the elected People's Assembly, elected local administration councils, popular organizations and their elected leading bodies, professional unions and their elected leading bodies. By the word all, which I am repeating, I mean the parties, the organizations, the unions, and other sectors of the populace which are not represented in parties or organizations.

Also participating in the Progressive National Front are all the country's parties, along with a number of popular organizations. I repeat these titles although they are known to all the citizens. But it is worthwhile for us to recall them, their being accomplishments attained by all of us in this country, and their being a chronicle of this particular juncture of our history, and also by way of reminding some people who are afflicted with amnesia.

The orientations of the Corrective Movement—some of which I referred to on the internal level—will remain the best broad guidelines for our future action. However, does this mean that all we have is good, that performance is taking place in the best way, that we have zero mistakes, and that we should not think of looking for the best and identifying the weaknesses in our actions and march? That is what I do not mean or want. I never wanted that at any time. My words and deeds, the resolutions adopted by our party congresses and leaderships, and the resolutions of the congresses of our organizations since the inception of correction confirm our faith that life always proceeds toward the better. However, life does not move that way spontaneously, but through our actions and efforts. This requires us to exert an adequate and earnest effort and busy the mind looking for the best ways and means to achieve our general objectives and to move with ourselves toward the best. [applause] Hence, we exerted successive attempts to develop front action and promote its performance, given that it is a vital field in our national march. We took important, promotive steps that we deemed necessary. Parties and popular organizations joined the Progressive National Front [PNF]. The PNF also set up some specialized offices. It participated actively in discussing some of the aspects of government action and gave special attention to the economic domain. The specialized offices set up by the PNF will enable it to make future decisions. Nevertheless, we continue to look for new steps for the PNF. [applause]

The government's action is getting better in the field of follow-up, production enhancement, and the improvement of the financial situation. However, we still have a long distance to go.

The People's Assembly's activity is good. [applause] It is lively and holds better objective debates over laws in general. The Assembly has also exercised supervision, monitoring, and accountability. Indeed, it carried out its tasks seriously, and everyone knows that. Generally speaking, action in our economic, cultural, and services institutions is improving. However, in our institutions in general, we have right and wrong. We have thankful efforts and denounced shortcomings. For example, there is a shortcoming in the process of modernizing some old laws which no longer cope with the requirements of the historic and cultural stage experienced by our country. This makes the executive organs, in a bid to fill this vacancy, resort to the use of some measures provided for and permitted by the emergency law. [applause]

For example, the current law does not give the act of forest arson the importance that a forest deserves. According to this law, a forest arsonist is brought to court. If he is proved guilty he is given a minor punishment, which may be months or days in prison, or a small fine. This does not agree with the crime in light of how all of us, or rather the entire world, view the importance of forests and trees in general. [applause] This is because forest arson, for example, is a major offense, which, in some way, is similar to manslaughter. Therefore, it deserves a major penalty.

The judge rules according to the law, and the law determines the appropriate sentence and its duration. In this case, the case of setting fire to the forest, the provisions of the law in force do not constitute a sufficient deterrent. Therefore, the executive body entrusted to defend the public interest and to deter those who interfere with the people's interests—represented in this case by the forest and its continued growth—resorts to the procedures stipulated by the emergency law, and which permit the arrest of the violator who committed the crime. The wise course is for the executive body to propose to the legislative branch the amendment of this law and others like it, to bring it into line with the new requirements of the homeland. This is because laws develop according to developments and needs. Then, we will not be forced to use the emergency law for cases that ordinary laws should be capable of dealing with properly. There are many examples of this and I see no need to enumerate them here. [applause]

I wanted to mention only one example with respect to matters where there are shortcomings. In light of this, we are speaking about the applications of the emergency law in force in our country, a law that exists in every country in the world. Countries resort to such a law during wartime and when war breaks out, when there is international tension, and during domestic disturbances and disasters. We are still in a state of war. The law cites two cases; the state of war and the eruption of war. The

eruption of war is the conduct of fighting, that is when fighting breaks out. The state of war is the state in which we in Syria have been living since the Zionist movement occupied part of our occupied Arab territory. [applause] We are in a state of war that was imposed on us and it continues to impose on us the enforcement of the emergency law for scores of years. We must also recall that neither the 8 March Revolution nor the Corrective Movement imposed the emergency law. This law was implemented scores of years ago, because, as I have said already, it was linked to the enemy's occupation of our Arab land in Palestine, and later, the occupation of land outside Palestine. [applause] As long as we are in a state of war, which, for scores of years, has forced and is forcing on us the application of the emergency law, we should restrict the use of this law. I believe that the government should soon study the idea of restricting the use of this law to more important matters such as state security and public order.

In any case, and as I said a few days ago, the Ba'th Party congress will meet and will discuss the general state of affairs in a comprehensive manner. The PNF congress will do the same. This is an important step in developing the front's action. [applause] Attention will be given to everything that contributes to national progress. [applause]

Unfolding worldwide developments present the Arabs with new and heavy burdens. We should not view them from the perspective of this or that journalist, writer, or politician, Arab or otherwise, now in good faith and now in bad faith—in the latter case when they say they are perplexed or offer advice or opinions as they wonder what will happen to this or that country, what will happen to this or that regime, what will happen to this or that individual. That is not the point. Each country and each regime has its own considerations and pillars. Each addresses its own problems taking these into account. And, in each case, such issues are the concern of the forces in play within each country. It is an internal rather than external problem. I tell those questioners—both the well-intentioned and the tendentious, and those who are perplexed or who offer opinions and advice—that such issues are essentially decided by the active interests within each country. It is an internal rather than external matter.

This, therefore, is not the point; the problems and the dangers lie in the potential consequences of such world changes as they manifest themselves in new alliances triggered by potential conflicts, the potential needs of future allies, and the manner of fulfilling these needs at the expense of other peoples and regions. The question is whether the partners to these future alliances will harbor the same ambitions as those from which mankind and we, the Syrians and Arabs, have suffered long enough in terms of injustice, hunger, and blood. The question is whether the Arabs will deploy their weight and effectiveness in a world scenario of such alliances and whether the Arabs will have a negative or positive impact on the policies of these new alliances toward the Arabs. On the

other hand, what part will Israel and the world Zionist movement play in such a new world scene? Will they have a place in it from where they can bring about the necessary means and circumstances to achieve their ideological dreams? We should be thinking in such terms. Arabs—both on the popular and official fronts—must not allow others, be they driven by good faith or bad, to turn their attention to irrelevant issues that waste our time and energy when we need that time and energy to address vital concerns that affect the destiny of the Arab nation—rather than our fate as individuals in office.

It goes without saying that the sons of the nation call on each other to hold consultations and to achieve solidarity and unity at times of danger. [applause] I am sorry to see that other nations, which are strong, are getting closer to each other, while the Arabs, who are already weak, are becoming more fragmented. [applause] The situation of the Arab nation is that of a nation that does not care about dangers posed to it, the near and the remote dangers. It is a situation of a nation that is controlled by the trivialities of whims and personal interests. Some sides do not take into consideration the serious threats that will destroy the sons of the nation if we do not prepare ourselves to confront them. [applause] We do not want to discuss the past in detail, but we say in short that those among us who read history and geography will realize that since the absence of the Arab state [al-dawlah al-'arabiyah], we have not stopped to lose, from time to time, part of our land and part of our people in the various parts of the Arab homeland. [applause] The developments that are currently taking place in today's world constitute an additional alarm to us to prepare ourselves if not to regain what we have already lost, then to avoid losing what we have inherited and what is still in our possession. [applause and chanting]

The large-scale changes that are taking place in today's world and the new alliances they seem to be leading to will not be confined to economic issues, but will go far beyond this to affect political issues. The logic of history will under no circumstances allow us to exclude this from our calculations, or to exclude all forms of changes, including colonialism and geographical changes. [applause] History teaches us that in its ancient depths, there had been nations that prospered, some of which established huge kingdoms and empires, which then were wiped out and destroyed when they became careless and heedless. None of us can see any traces of them in the contemporary world. Do not our losses that we have successively sustained throughout ages and until now, of people and land, deserve a moment of study and contemplation? [applause] Is there anything at this historic stage that deserves our efforts and time more than this pause? [applause] Nothing is more important than this if we want to live as an honorable nation that will continue to be able to protect itself and function effectively among the world's nations. Syria, which is confident that none of its brothers is more capable than it of defending its national soil [applause] and which can sense the imminent danger against all the Arab homeland's countries, is

sounding the alarm and demanding that all sides rise to the occasion and that personal trivialities and whims must be put aside. Syria, as it was in the past, will be today and in the future [applause] concerned about the nation's dignity, and will continue to offer unlimited sacrifices for the sake of the nation under all circumstances.

I and all of us realize that there will be no benefit from any calls, no matter how often repeated, and from any voices, no matter how high, unless everyone realizes that the danger threatens everyone and that the need for solidarity and unity is everyone's need. Solidarity and unity are a common interest, not a commodity for a price. [applause]

Brothers, let us see now how Israel has become the main beneficiary among all world nations from the international changes which have taken place. It has restored its relations with some countries and it has increased its influence in others. While Zionism was unwelcome and unable to engage in any activity in the socialist bloc countries on the basis that Zionism is a racist movement, we find that what is taking place today is to the contrary of all that. The Zionists are active everywhere in these countries, although at varying degrees. They hold meetings, seminars, and conferences including figures and delegations from inside and outside these countries. They adopt resolutions and recommendations that are published and transmitted by internal and external news media. Their influence has also become obvious in the news media. They have infiltrated into the news media of more than one socialist bloc country. They were not satisfied with preaching their ideas and polishing Israel's face, but also started hunting down those who are or were hostile to Zionism. They did this by launching press campaigns against these people, ridiculing their opinions, discrediting them, distorting their past in their own countries, and assaulting and assassinating them in the streets. There have been several such assassination incidents involving well-known persons. These were reported in the news media. [applause]

Nobody expected Zionism to attain this position in the socialist bloc countries following the absence of any open Zionist activities in these countries over the past 70 years. But Zionism had expected these developments to happen one day, so it did not lose hope. It operated clandestinely in some places and openly in others, using funds, propaganda, politics, and other methods until it attained the present position. How different is the situation today from yesterday! Had anyone told us only 10 years ago that Zionism and its upholders and supporters would attain the present position in the socialist bloc countries, we would have considered him to be unrealistic and unsound, and we would have expressed our astonishment and utter rejection of such a possibility. Had anyone also told us in the thirties that Zionism would set up its Jewish state in Palestine and would evict the Palestinians from their land to be replaced by Jews from different countries, we would

have also considered him a lunatic. Yet Israel was established in the late forties and the Palestinian Arabs were evicted.

And now Syria is warning of the realization of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, the objective which world Zionists are seeking to achieve and will never abandon, because this is their sacred dream. Would the Arabs then have anything worthwhile left for them once this objective had been achieved? Are we alert to this matter? Are we behaving in a manner confirming our sense of responsibility toward this danger? Have we placed this danger at the top of our priorities? In fact, have we even placed it second on our list of priorities? Can I say that it does not have any place in our priorities? Is this a nation that has learned the lessons of history? [applause]

Here is the new, intensive Jewish immigration to Palestine taking place before our eyes. Did we expect it? This immigration was imposed on the world despite its false justifications. Nobody disputed the justifications. In fact, everyone justifies it—from the right of the individual to emigrate to the freedom of the individual to emigrate. Soon it would the right of the Jewish individual to return to his homeland, the promised land, because it is the land of the Israelites which God has promised them according to their holy books. [applause] What right of emigration is it that they are talking about? Do you not believe with me that the word freedom here completely means aggression because the freedom to emigrate, in this instance, means freedom to occupy the land of others, and to expel them from their land? Especially since this immigrant would not be coming due to the exigencies of work or livelihood, but because he believes that he is returning to the land of his forefathers which God has bestowed on them and that it belongs to them and their grandsons. He would be returning to possess this country and to evict its original inhabitants and to fight these inhabitants at home and abroad and also fight the Arabs on the consideration that the inhabitants of this country are part of the Arab nation.

In this context, man's right to emigration, too, has been reversed and turned into a lie. Right, in this context, means absolutely the opposite. According to this version, the right of emigration is identical to the freedom of immigration. It is the right to occupy the land of others and to expel them from their homes and countries. An emigrant, in this instance, is not motivated by man's right to emigrate, but by what he thinks is his right to his homeland, and to which he should return.

Young comrades, your forefathers once had homelands and civilizations that survived for hundreds of years in areas outside the current Arab homeland. That was not a long time ago. These homelands ceased to exist only 400 years ago. Is it acceptable for us to claim these homelands now? Your forefathers existed as rulers and citizens in Spain, Portugal, southern France, southern Italy, in most of the Mediterranean islands, and in vast areas in India and China. Shall we demand now that these

areas be returned to us and should we fight and wage war to convince the world that these areas are our homelands because they were the homelands of our forefathers? Does the world, or the peoples of these countries agree with us in saying that man's right and freedom of emigration allows us to achieve this goal? However, it should be noted that those emigrants are Jews. I feel the time is not appropriate for drawing comparisons between what we might use as pretexts—had we been willing to use pretexts about what I have just mentioned—and the pretexts raised by Zionism and its base, Israel. However, it is noteworthy that neither those Soviet Jewish emigrants nor their forefathers have been, at any time in history, citizens of Palestine. They are not Israelites. [applause and chanting] The Soviet Jews and the Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union are Soviet citizens. Neither they nor their forefathers were ever citizens of Israel or resided any time in history in the state of Israel, which existed for a short period of time before Christ in Palestine. Those are not among those Jews who used to say that they were Israelites and Semites. The Soviet Jews are neither Israelites nor Semites, although they accuse others who disagree with them of anti-Semitism. They are the remains of the Khazars. The Soviet Jews are the remains of the Khazars who came from the Far East and resided in new areas where they established their state. These areas now, after the collapse of the Khazar entity, are part of the Soviet Union. Even the false claim of the Israelites' right to Palestine and a state from the Euphrates to the Nile does not apply to them, because they are not Israelites or the sons of Isaac or the sons of Sam, son of Noah.

There is no doubt that the United States has played the basic role in implementing the Israeli wishes by securing the necessary pressure in all possible forms to bring about the emigration of the Soviet Jews. It was not content merely with this, but it also restricted the number of these emigrants entering the United States. This is in spite of the fact that those who emigrate to the United States do not do so out of any desire to be far from Israel, but because they believe that—in addition to improving their personal living conditions—they can serve Israel through various financial, propagandistic, and political means. This is in addition to the possibility of attaining dual citizenship, which allows them to live in Israel whenever they choose and enables them to fight in the Israeli forces at any time.

The United States, which has been making great efforts for a long time on behalf of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, should have lived up to its responsibilities, even in the last part of the game. However, this is not the first or the only time for the United States. And it seems it will not be the last. Arab and American history yet to come will decide these issues. [applause]

Once again, it is appropriate to emphasize this point in particular. The Jews in the Soviet Union are citizens of the Soviet Union. They have not been—for one day or moment in history—in Palestine, either when there were Jews there in the era B.C.—that is, 2000 years ago—or

after the Jewish entity had been erased from Palestine. They were not residents or citizens in Palestine when the Jews had a measure of control; nor when this control in Palestine diminished. The Jews' holy book promises that the Israelite Jews and the sons of Israel will be given Palestine and the Arab lands from the Nile to the Euphrates, which was declared by their God as I have reiterated and said earlier, and as stated in their Torah. No god, prophet, or self-respecting human being can grant such a false promise. God knows nothing about such a promise. However, even this fictional and bogus promise does not apply to the Jews of the Soviet Union, because they are not of the Israelites, nor from the Semites. They are a big tribe of Khazars—or a tribe called the Khazars—which emigrated from the Far East to the West, settled in areas that are now part of Soviet territory, and established an entity before they had a religion. At a later stage, they embraced Judaism. This entity was eliminated by invasions of other peoples. Consequently, some moved west and settled in European countries. Their descendants are the Jews whom we see, read about, or hear about nowadays in European countries in general. The American Jews, moreover, come from those European Jews. Others remained in the same land, which became part of the Soviet Union as a result of later developments—and these Jews are emigrating to Palestine on the basis that Palestine is their homeland and that of their forefathers! [applause]

The Jews who hold these false ideas and their supporters have managed to falsify every generous and noble ideal that man has defended for ages—in fact, for thousands of years, since life began on earth, in order for him to make them living and widespread realities—like human rights, man's freedom, or the numerous freedoms of man. They put these ideals to use for their own purposes, and mislead a large sector of the world's public opinion. In doing so, they are aided by their gangs, who are present in many countries of the world, with the help of some imperialist fleets, and the giants of imperialism who always give... [changes thought] who have always pledged themselves continuously to serve Zionist slogans, regardless of their content or the evils they will inflict on other peoples living in this world.

Therefore, when these people uphold human rights and man's freedom, they justify the Jewish emigration to Palestine, the occupation of the Palestinian lands, and the displacement of Palestinians. After a while, they will justify the eviction of other Arabs and say that this is being done to respect human rights and man's freedom to travel and to migrate, using words which they will find when the need arises.

O youths, O citizens: Our sons in the Golan and our brothers in Palestine and southern Lebanon are fighting the enemy relentlessly with all their resolve and strength. This is the militant march that should not stop. This march should not retreat. We should not ask or wonder: Until when? No, we should continue the struggle, believing that the time is long and that our jihad should be protracted and as long as time. We should believe that

we are still in the beginning of this struggle. It is important for us to believe that the time is ours, and that jihad is ours. Nobody can take these two things away from us. They are weapons in our hands. We can use them the way we like, and for as long as we like. We will not become impatient complaining over the length of time entailed. No, we will ask that we be given additional time so that our desire for jihad is met. That is because time is the receptacle of our jihad, and our jihad is long and protracted. And so, it requires an extremely long receptacle. [applause and chanting]

It is not we who should ask: How long? No, the enemy is the party which should ask: How long? The struggle must not be an exception. No, it must be our normal way of life, filling this life and leaving no void whatsoever. We should live with this struggle and identify with it. When the enemy fails to find a void separating us from our struggle over a long period of time, we would then be able to achieve victory.

O sons and brothers [applause]; O sons and brothers in the occupied Arab territories; in the Golan, Palestine, and southern Lebanon: Your people in Syria are with you every hour of the day, giving you effort, money, and blood. Think it over and analyze things deeply so that you can know the truth clearly. Let us forge ahead together upholding righteousness, armed with willpower on the path of liberation. May God bless you and may He bless your jihad. [applause and chanting]

O brothers [applause and chanting]; O brothers: Many people have sought during this period to mar and distort the image of the relations between us and the Soviet Union. As a matter of course, they are expressing wishful thinking, thus voicing hopes. This is nothing new. Some quarters have always harbored this desire. These very quarters have had this wish embedded within their hearts. However, desire is something and the truth is something else. The relationship between Syria and the Soviet Union is as firm as it has always been. For a long time, we have been friendly states. This friendship has been strengthened over this time through diligence and strong cooperation. We are not an ungrateful people, especially when the issue concerns our crucial issues. The Soviet Union stood by our side, supported our just struggle, and provided us with the necessary assistance to confront the aggression. These stands will remain a living part of the history of our ties—a part that advances these ties rather than allowing for a stalemate. How then is this part expected to allow for a retreat in these ties?

We adhere to our friendship with the USSR now as in the past, in fact more than at any time before. We greet friendly USSR and wish it continued progress and success.

Youths, brother citizens: Let us pursue the mission of building our country and citizens. Let us promote our community spirit. Let us deepen altruism and patriotic spirit. Let us shed selfishness. Let us fortify national

unity. Let us spread love in every corner of our country. Let us relate to each other—both as individuals and as groups—with tolerance and brotherhood. Let each of us show concern for the dignity of all of us, since there can be no dignity for any one of us if dignity is not assured to the entire people of the land. Let us exert ourselves for the homeland with dedication, honesty, and a sense of sacrifice.

Today, on 8 March and with the advent of spring, we encounter flowers and roses in our fields; we also encounter flowers and roses among our people. They are our youths—the youths of the March Revolution, comrades of Hamidah al-Tahir and Mahmud Sulayman and Khalid 'Akar and others. Happy March, and God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Al-Zu'bi Announces Changes to Emergency Law

JN0803202890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the celebration marking the 27th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi commented on what President Hafiz al-Asad said in his speech. He said: As of Saturday, 10 March, the government will begin preparing legal instruments and necessary measures to limit the use of the emergency law to matters concerning state security. These legal instruments will be completed within a period of no more than seven days, al-Zu'bi added.

Afghanistan

Government Commission To Assist Victims Meets

LD0803235290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The authoritative commission to render assistance to the victims of the defeated coup d'etat of Shahnawaz Tanay-Gulbuddin met today under the chairmanship of Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister.

In the session, specific tasks on urgent and timely measures were given to the members of the commission. The commission authorizes the Ministry of Public Health and the Department of Preparation Against Incident to provide cash assistance of 10,000 afghanis for each victim of this incident. The Ministry of Commerce was commissioned to put enough goods at the disposal of the Department of Preparation Against Incident for distribution to the victims.

The Ministry of Transport was entrusted with taking action to deliver glass [as heard] from Hayratan port to Kabul. The Ministry of Finance was also commissioned to allocate the sum of five million afghanis to the Department of Preparation Against Incident in order to provide assistance to the victims of this incident. During the session the Department of Housing Construction was given the task to render necessary assistance in the timely repair of state departments.

The Department of Direct Cooperation [as heard] will make goods available for the Department of the Preparation Against Incident for distribution to the victims.

The Ministry of Finance is dutybound to take action to repair the aforementioned ministry with the cooperation of the Department of Construction.

The session authorizes the members to establish the level of damage caused as a result of the destructive activity by the national traitors in all the 11th wards immediately and provide assistance to the victims.

Interior Minister Paktin Addresses Personnel

LD0803235390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Dr. Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of interior, met today with personnel of that ministry in the conference hall of that ministry. A BIA correspondent reports that during this meeting the minister of interior spoke about the defeated coup d'etat by Shahnawaz Tanay-Gulbuddin which was organized by the intelligence agency of Pakistan and caused considerable financial damage and loss of life to the citizens of Kabul, and about the crushing of this conspiracy by the Armed Forces of Afghanistan. He praised the role of the Sarandoy [national police] in this national and patriotic task.

He specified the further duties and responsibilities of Ministry of Interior personnel in ensuring nationwide peace and in foiling sinister plots by the enemies of the people and homeland. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Decree Shortens Women's Prison Terms

LD0803232990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The President's Office reports that a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, reducing the prison terms of a number of women prisoners, has been issued with the following text:

A decree by the president on reduction of two years on the remaining prison terms of 10 women prisoners:

To welcome the women's international day and in accordance with the instruction of Paragraph eight, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, a reduction of two years each on the remaining prison terms of 10 women prisoners included in a 10-page list attached to proposal number 3,280 dated 25 September 1989 by the Council of Women of Afghanistan which contain their complete biographies, is approved.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Organizations Expel 5 Coup Conspirators

PDPA Politburo

LD0803181190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] A session of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo was held today. The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee discussed the failed conspiracy by treacherous group [word indistinct] led by Shahnawaz Tanay-Gulbuddin, and added that the failed coup d'etat, launched by Pakistani military intelligence with the participation of a handful of mercenaries of the aforementioned organization, is considered an action against the independence and national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], an attempt to thwart the national reconciliation policy in accordance with the anti-Afghan plans of Pakistan's militarist circles, and an attempt to dissolve and crush the PDPA, political allies, and all Afghan forces struggling for a political resolution of the Afghanistan issue, or that have shown optimism.

The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee expressed appreciation and praise to the hero Armed Forces of the RA and proud members of the PDPA both in the center and the provinces, who with timely order and discipline took part with self-sacrifice in crushing conspirators and ensuring people's life and property.

In connection with the heroism of a number of the best children of the homeland and soldiers of the PDPA and

a number of the civilians who fell victim to this conspiracy, the Politburo expressed endless sorrow and condolences to the families of the martyrs.

The Politburo condemned the treacherous action by the extremists as against all the norms of organizational and moral principles and the peaceful goals and intentions of the PDPA; and it approved the expulsion of five persons: Shahnawaz Tanay, Niaz Muhammad Momand, Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Mir Seheb Karwal, and Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, in accordance with the principles of the charter of the PDPA, from the Politburo and other party posts. It also expelled a number of traitors, including Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Ghulam Dastagir Panjshiri, from the PDPA Central Committee. It decided that, based on the charter of the PDPA, a report should be presented to the routine plenum of the PDPA Central Committee for final approval.

The Politburo of the PDPA [Central Committee] stressed to all party members that, more than at any other time, in maintaining party unity they should display conscious discipline and political awareness and struggle for implementation of the humane goals of the party, ensuring nationwide peace and progress, and should take part with self-sacrifice in the path of better service to the people. The Politburo of the PDPA [Central Committee] stressed the need for the continuation of the national reconciliation policy, the creation of a broad based coalition government, democracy, and political pluralism.

Defense Council

LD0803231390 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Defense of the Homeland reports that an extraordinary session of the Supreme Council for Defense of the Homeland was held this morning, chaired by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Supreme Council for defense of the homeland. After assessing the facts connected with the treacherous coup d'etat attempt by the Shahnawaz Tanay band, the session of the Supreme Council of Defense pointed out that the coup d'etat had been organized with the direct participation and cooperation of Gulbuddin and the orders of the Pakistani Interservices Intelligence. It was foiled as a result of resolute, self-sacrificing, and firm defense by the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and its political allies, and with the cooperation of the noble people of Afghanistan. In order to overcome the consequences of this treacherous antinational action the following decisions were made at the session of the Supreme Council for Defense of the Homeland:

1. The following people who had taken part in the organization and implementation of the failed coup d'etat should be expelled from membership of the

Supreme Council for Defense of the Homeland: Shahnawaz Tanay, former minister of Defense; Niaz Muhammad Mumand; Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad; Lieutenant General 'Abdul Qadir Agah, former general commander of Air and Air Defence Forces; and Mir Saheb Karwal.

2. The Supreme Council of defense of the Homeland has set up special commissions in connection with the revitalization of economic installations which have been damaged as a result of the attempted Shahnawaz Tanay-Gulbuddin coup d'etat; assisting those who suffered losses from this action; exposing the antipeace and anti-Afghan nature of this coup d'etat; establishing special courts and prosecutors offices in order to investigate crimes committed by the organizers and participants of the failed coup d'etat; appreciating the bravery and activities of the units and companies and soldiers who had taken part in defeating and foiling the coup d'etat; and concerning a series of other issues.

The Supreme Council of Defense of the Homeland expresses its condolences to all families who have suffered bereavement as a result of the failed and treacherous Shahnawaz Tanay-Gulbuddin coup d'etat.

Protest Registered With Pakistani Envoy in Kabul

LD0803221790 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was today summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and a strong protest from the government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] was conveyed to him. The protest has the following text:

The government of the RA has undeniable documentary evidence proving the direct participation of the military intelligence apparatus and government of Pakistan in planning the treacherous conspiracy by Shahnawaz Tanay and his direct partner in crime, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. The Government of Pakistan's interference and aggression constitutes the principle basis of its policy toward the RA. Taking into account the fact that a military solution in its previous forms has become impossible as a result of resistance by Afghan patriots, and that real grounds and possibilities have been created for a political solution and the implementation of national reconciliation, the government of Pakistan brought to the field its last reserve in the military sphere of our country, that is, payments made to the leadership of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan. Again it gained nothing but shameful defeat by and the anger of the people of Afghanistan.

The traitorous coup plotters and mercenaries of Pakistan, with the awareness of the Armed Forces and heroic and brave people of Afghanistan, were crushed, and a number of the criminals took refuge in the fold of their patrons.

As a result of this criminal conspiracy, heavy losses, financial and material damage have been inflicted on our people. The criminals not only destroyed the public assets of Afghanistan, but, by using aircraft, transferred huge amounts of money belonging to the people of Afghanistan when they fled to Pakistan.

The main and primary cause of this slaughter and destruction is the Government of Pakistan. Reliable information indicates that the escape of traitor Shahnawaz Tanay to Pakistan was agreed in advance with authorities of that country should his conspiracy fail. They were ready to welcome their defeated servants.

The Government of Afghanistan condemns this antihuman and revengeful action by the Government of Pakistan, and registers its strongest protest in this connection to the Government of Pakistan.

Based on all international norms and standards, the Government of Pakistan is duty-bound to hand over the criminals, led by traitor Shahnawaz Tanay, Niaz Muhammad Muhmand, and other criminals and their collaborators, to the authorities of the RA for lawful trial as soon as possible.

Najibullah Holds News Conference 8 Mar

*LD0803210490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[News conference by Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, at the Storey Palace of the Foreign Ministry in Kabul, with foreign and domestic correspondents—announced as recorded "this afternoon"]

[Text] [Najibullah] Dear journalists, I think you have followed the announcements and statements by the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces in connection with the defeated coup d'etat by Shahnawaz Tanay, former defense minister. In today's conference, I want to tell you that we in fact faced an extensive and planned conspiracy, the aim of which was to overthrow the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and to take power within few hours.

The coup d'etat began with lighting attacks by several Air Force aircraft on the presidential palace and the crowded places of Kabul City, in order to cause fear and disorder. Simultaneously, the coup members resorted to a series of actions against civilian and state targets in other places. Reports reaching the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the RA from the provinces during the very first hours of this failed coup d'etat assured us that commanders of almost all the units and companies of the Army of the RA were able to prevent any armed clashes and bloodshed. The leadership of the coup d'etat, after capturing the airbase at Bagram, formed a so-called Revolutionary Headquarters of the Chief of the General Staff in the Defense Ministry building.

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the RA, before resorting to defend itself, tried to dissuade the leaders of the coup d'etat from their vain efforts, which would have caused bloodshed and unprecedented fear. When the Supreme Command received a negative reply, it immediately took the necessary measures against the conspirators. As a result, after the measures by our forces, several of the leaders of the coup d'etat had no alternative but to leave their hideouts in Dar ol Aman [ward in Kabul where Defense Ministry is located] secretly and go to the Bagram airbase. Then immediately the headquarters of Shahnawaz and his collaborators in Dar ol Aman was seized and a number of his men were arrested.

At the same time, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, as if he had been prepared in advance, announced that he supported the coup attempts and had instructed his armed groups to intervene and render assistance to the coup members. Timely revelation of this information in connection with the covert collusion between Shahnawaz, Asadullah Sarwari, and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, which took place under the supervision of Pakistan's military intelligence, caused several people who had been deceived by Shahnawaz Tanay to separate themselves from the main conspirators and to embark on action against them.

Just a few minutes before our forces seized the last hideout of the coup members in Bagram, the leaders of the coup d'etat fled to Pakistan in a helicopter and two military transport aircraft. That is how a bloody adventure ended. If the Armed Forces of the RA had not taken timely action, it is possible that unprecedented bloodshed and destruction would have taken place in our beloved country.

Within 24 hours, the situation was brought under the control of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and returned to normal a few hours later. In all, 25 citizens of Kabul were martyred and more than 150 were injured. The people of Afghanistan express appreciation to the timely and brave action by the Armed Forces of the RA who remained loyal to the national interests of the people of Afghanistan. For they were able to crush the unholy conspiracy by the enemies of Afghanistan, their collaborators, and their internal mercenaries.

A close look at the well-known faces of the traitors and coup members shows the real nature and main aim of the plot.

Which faces? Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the representative of the most prejudiced group of the extremist opposition, was fighting a bloody war against his people and country under the direct supervision of Pakistan's military intelligence 15 years ago, and is still fighting. At the moment, the savage and terroristic actions by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar are obvious to everyone. He is responsible for several bloody clashes among the various armed oppositions, political killing and assassination, and smuggling of arms and narcotics. Gulbuddin obstinately rejects all

the proposals of the RA aimed at a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue and wants to create his own dictatorship.

Asadullah Sarwari, because of his unforgivable crimes committed at the beginning of the revolution which annihilated hundreds of our innocent compatriots, is known by the people of Afghanistan as a defamed person, a murderer with a bad reputation. He too has always opposed all the efforts by the RA toward establishing peace, ending bloodshed, and attaining reconciliation.

Shahnawaz, who was extremely thirsty for power, used all available means in striving to create obstacles on the path of the national reconciliation policy, and was always supporting and backing the warmonger and militarist elements who were in collusion with the formations of the extremist oppositions.

Pakistan's military intelligence department, which planned and organized this coup d'etat was always stressing a military solution. Therefore, all these faces and centers resorted to conspiracy against the national reconciliation policy and the expansion of democracy in Afghanistan. As we can see, what they all had in common was explicit opposition to the national reconciliation policy and the expansion of democracy which is being followed by the leadership of the RA.

The timely foiling of this anti-Afghan, anti-peace, and criminal conspiracy showed, on the one hand, that obviously the forces in favor of peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan enjoy bravery, heroism, power, and superiority, and on the other, they rooted out the remaining opposition and animosity against the national reconciliation policy from the strata of the party and state.

Finally, we repeat all our commitments on continuing indefatigable efforts toward using all the means and instruments to speedily end war and bloodshed through sincere implementation of the national reconciliation policy, to free the country from the pain of war, and to expand democracy. Thank you for your attention.

Now I am at your service, so freely ask your questions.

[Translator] The BBC reporter asks: Mr. President, you have mentioned civilian losses during the past 24 hours. Is it possible to mention military losses?

[Najibullah] Precise figures will of course be published later. However, I can tell you that military losses are not more than civilian losses. It can even be said that because the actions of these traitors have been against innocent people, losses among the civilians are greater.

[Translator] A (?Norwegian) correspondent asks if you could please provide more information about the persons involved in this coup d'etat, which section of the Army took part in the coup, and how many people have been arrested.

[Najibullah] The names of the leading figures have been mentioned. It should be said that other military and political figures will be resolutely and speedily investigated and tried in consideration of legality and justice. In a separate decree today in accordance with Article 108 of the Constitution, a Special Prosecutor's Office and a special court was formed. Soon all names and faces will be exposed through the mass media.

As far as the participation of units is concerned, I told you at the beginning that only a few individuals at the Bagram Air Force base knowingly resorted to this action. They were, fortunately, arrested. However, the absolute majority of the country's airmen, who were taken hostage, imprisoned, and blackmailed in Bagram, and who were even threatened with physical elimination, courageously repeated the epics of defending Khowst, Nangarhar, and Qandahar, especially as the date of this incident was the anniversary of the attack and aggression via Pakistan by the extremists and joint forces [against Jalalabad]. They showed their Afghan courage and honor; they either refused to obey the orders of coup plotters, under the threat of death, to attack innocent people and residents of the city, or were forced to fly, but then landed in Kabul, Balkh, or Konduz airports and joined the government forces in defense of the interests of the people, sovereignty, freedom, and territorial integrity and attacked the coup plotters. Of course, the coup plotters knew that a number of our heroic airmen, who were undoubtedly known from long ago [for their loyalty], would not join them. These men were arrested and denied the possibility and time for action. However, after a few hours, that is from 1300 to 1600, in three hours, you saw that the balance of air power quickly changed, and they were left with only those pilots who fled with them.

In all provincial centers and cities, and in all local units and companies, the situation was normal. So far, we have received no report of any incidents of any kind from any of the provincial centers. Our units and companies are in control of the situation. In some units and companies in Kabul a number of identified individuals installed by the coup plotters resorted to a series of terrorist actions. They were, fortunately, either quickly arrested or eliminated as a result of showing resistance; a few of them fled. By exposing these faces and the list of those who have been arrested and who have been eliminated, and the publication of this list, you yourselves will know in which units they were assigned.

However, I cannot give you an example of mass confrontation by any unit. It was because of this that you saw that in a short period of time, even though the offensive and attack was started by the enemy, and they even had the Air Force at their disposal, [word indistinct] a small number of traitors were either arrested, or a few, who yesterday inflicted a few limited strikes, only three or four limited strikes, fled with them [the coup leaders]. Otherwise, all the heroic pilots and airmen remained in the trenches of principledness, justice, reconciliation,

peace, defense of the homeland, and defending the innocent residents of Kabul and other cities, which should be appreciated.

However, during a short period of time these actions, that is from 1300 hours 6 March to 1300 hours 7 March, everything came to an end and we were in control of the situation due to the facts and reasons that I have explained to you. In contrast, you have seen that even with the support and direct interference by the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines in favor of government forces and against the coup plotters, the situation remained out of control for 15 to 20 days.

[Translator] The AFP correspondent asks: What effects will this failed coup d'etat have on the reform process you have undertaken?

[Najibullah] At the end of my introductory speech, if you noticed, I once again stressed that I, the Government of the RA, the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], and all its political allies not only are sincere in pursuing the policy of national reconciliation and the expansion of democracy, but also the deepening of the policy of national reconciliation.

[Translator] The Norwegian reporter asks another question: In Peshawar it has been said that the United States and Pakistan have given the Afghan opposition one more year to prove their capabilities in a military victory against the RA. How do you assess the abilities of your Armed Forces against this final attempt?

[Najibullah] The abilities of our Armed Forces, in connection with the independent defense [of the country], during the past year is not only firm, but is undeniably proven by the quick defeat of the coup d'etat, which took place with joint forces and joint plans. This makes us more hopeful, and should convince the world that the Armed Forces of the RA are capable of foiling and defeating quickly, seriously, resolutely, and courageously every kind of external and internal conspiracy, without support from the outside—unlike what happened in the Philippines—and should enhance the prestige and credit of the Government of the RA.

My conclusion is the opposite of your conclusion: that they might not be given another year. Because the West, and the Americans in particular, reasoned that with a sick body, where any moment there was the possibility of destabilization in the presence of these viruses [the coup plotters], they could postpone the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and the recognition of Afghanistan by some Western countries. However, when they see that the body has recovered, is gaining strength, is manifesting itself with a stronger future, no reason will remain for such a shaky, doubtful, and fluctuating stance by Western circles.

Especially [word indistinct] when we are for a reduction of tension in the world in a new atmosphere of political detente and are fighting for disarmament, tranquillity, and the security of the people. We will tell you with

optimism that the foiling of this conspiracy and plot is powerful proof of the strength of the Government of the RA, and I fully believe that a number of reasonable countries—and even I would say that the thinking of a large number of those countries is reasonable and healthy—will be obliged to review their political stances towards Afghanistan.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you assess the reaction of Afghanistan's people toward the treacherous coup attempt by Shahnawaz Tanay?

[Najibullah] Yesterday afternoon, when the situation was fully under control, I visited a number of hospitals and met those injured and wounded in the incident. The climate, and what I noticed in the faces, features, and conversation of the injured while they were in pain, or had lost a part of their body, or suffered financial damage, was such that, I can tell you, I have not seen even during the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, or the year of independent defense of the RA against the enemy. But this was a true victory, for it foiled a real threat, and they considered it their own victory. Based on information that we have gathered from public opinion and the way they are thinking, yesterday all the people were congratulating each other. They offered alms and cooked halwa [special food offered by Muslims as alms]. They prayed for the peace and tranquillity of the people of Afghanistan and also, to an extent, they prayed for us too.

I think such moral support, backing, and solidarity by the people of Afghanistan is the principle bastion giving us courage to bravely take steps for the establishment of peace and tranquillity—which is the desire and wish of Afghanistan's people—and to give such a reply to any conspiracy, plot, or obstacle, whether from outside or from inside, against the interests of Afghanistan's people, as we have given to this plot and conspiracy. This is our responsibility. This is our deed before the people of Afghanistan.

The other proof of the issue is the fact that I was forced immediately, not only [words indistinct] verbal, written, and various letters especially from provinces and Kabul citizens, that in those regions where 500 kg bombs fell on civilian targets and caused deep craters and ditches, that we want the trial of such traitors to be held as soon as possible in these regions, for they have dug their own graves in advance and deserve to be buried in these graves.

This is the support and backing of the people for their state, and this is what they want. Therefore, today a special court and a Special Prosecutor's Office were opened based on a decree. I think we have given a positive reply to this just demand by the people of Afghanistan, and have carried out a just action.

[Translator] I think there are no more questions.

[Najibullah] If you still want to ask questions in this session or you want to arrange another program, I will be

ready for that too. We alleviate the pain of Afghanistan's people constantly and do our duty at the same time, we will always be at the disposal of the journalists as well. Now a live bridge has been created between us and the world. This bridge is you, dear journalists.

Taking this opportunity, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, although Gulbuddin might criticize you now that all the Western journalists who are in Afghanistan have launched propaganda in the interest of the RA, but we are thankful that you see the facts and report the facts. The truth of the matter is that you are committed to your profession, and have respected your profession in practice and have reflected the facts. Of course, we have some criticisms, however, we leave them aside. The main and principle line is that each journalist should carry out his work based on truth and facts as you carry out your duty. Thank you for your attention.

We have an expression in Dari which says: As with the beloved one, with us there is a great deal to discuss. [yar zenda wa sobat baqi].

Gen Tanay Sends Radio Message to Afghan People

BK0903004290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 8 (AFP)—Rebel General Shahnawaz Tanay sent a clandestine radio message to the Afghan people Thursday [8 March] vowing to continue his fight against the Kabul government, resistance sources said here. They quoted the general as saying in Pushtu: "Our war is going on ... the end of Najib (President Najibullah) is sure." Resistance sources who received a tape of the broadcast from Peshawar said they had no information on how the message was transmitted to the Afghan people.

"I am in the country and due to disruption of communications I am sending this message through a friend outside Afghanistan," the tape said. It gave no details.

Gen. Tanay was sacked as defense minister Tuesday for leading a putsch against Mr. Najibullah. He was reported by some sources to have flown to Pakistan.

In Peshawar, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Islami resistance faction, told a news conference that Gen. Tanay "is leading his forces in the area around Kabul." He offered to take reporters to meet the general in Kabul "at any time." He said Gen. Tanay had shifted to the Kabul area "to reunite his forces" after government units attacked the Bagram Air Base where he had holed up after the mutiny broke out.

Earlier Thursday, various sources said Kabul was in government hands, although fighting was reported in the surrounding area.

Mr. Hekmatyar said fighting continued in several areas, including Qandahar, Herat, Helmand, Zabol and Parvan. Fighting around Kabul had slackened because rebel forces had lost contact with each other since Wednesday

evening, he said. But he predicted the fighting would spread and the military rebels would join forces with the mujahidin. "Our aim is that the rebel forces will fight with the help of the mujahidin till the end of Kabul regime," he said.

He ruled out the possibility of a coalition or a broad-based government in Afghanistan, saying nobody would be "so foolish as to join hands with Najib forces at this stage."

Government Asks Pakistan To Hand Over Tanay

BK0903003290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1809 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 8 (AFP)—The Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah Thursday [8 March] asked Pakistan to hand over coup leader Shahnawaz Tanay and his followers who fled over the border Wednesday following the failure of the coup. "The government of Pakistan, based on all the principles and norms of international law is duty-bound to hand over immediately the criminals led by Shahnawaz Tanay to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan for legal trial," a statement released by the Foreign Ministry here said.

It also asked Pakistan to ensure that "properties and aircraft they have taken away to the territory of that country are returned." "The government of Afghanistan decisively wants that," the statement said.

The statement went on to accuse Pakistan's military intelligence of organizing the bloody coup attempt, and warned Islamabad to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. It said Kabul had, but did not detail "irrefutable documents and evidence" to prove Pakistan's participation. It said the government of Pakistan had brought to the fore "its last reserves in the military sphere of our country: the elements which had been installed by them in the leadership of the Afghan armed forces."

The statement also alleged that Pakistan and Gen. Tanay had reached agreement prior to the coup attempt that he would escape to Pakistan if it failed. "The Republic of Afghanistan condemns this inhuman and hostile action of the Pakistani Government and lodges its strong protest," it said.

Gen Tanay Said Leading Forces Around Kabul

BK0903012690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say fighting is continuing in several areas, including Qandahar, Herat, Helmand, Zabol, and Parvan. General Shahnawaz Tanay, the Afghan coup leader, is leading his forces in an area around Kabul. Agency reports say that the large-scale damage caused by yesterday's fighting in Kabul can be clearly seen there.

Najibullah Strength After Coup Attempt Questioned**'War of Words' With Pakistan***BK0903025690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0232 GMT
9 Mar 90**[By Rene Slama]*

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 8 (AFP)—The attempted coup in Afghanistan has escalated the war of words between President Najibullah and the Pakistani-backed Afghan resistance. The verbal skirmishing came as resistance sources here and diplomats in Kabul said Thursday [8 March] that fighting was continuing around the Afghan capital and in the south of the country, two days after the attempted coup. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in Islamabad a spokesman for the Pakistani Government, which provides political and logistical support to the resistance, said there was "almost a national consensus in Afghanistan" that Mr. Najibullah was the main obstacle to peace. The spokesman added that he did not "see how his government can emerge strengthened from these events," which began Tuesday with an attempted coup led by former Defence Minister General Shahnawaz Tanai and continued with a sharp escalation of resistance activity in many places throughout the country. According to Islamabad, the attempt to overthrow Mr. Najibullah is not yet finished and there remains a "pragmatic alliance" between the mujahidin and the mutineers from the regular army.

Pakistani authorities say there are some 25,000 soldiers loyal to Gen. Tanai, a ranking member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan who headed a faction opposing that of Mr. Najibullah before he was sacked from his ministerial post. Islamabad has admitted that Gen. Tanai came "near" the Pakistani border Wednesday to meet with key resistance leaders, but insisted Thursday that he had now "returned to the interior of Afghanistan," contrary to reports from several local papers which said Gen. Tanai had sought refuge in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

In Kabul, there was a gradual return to normality, with the reopening of the airport and businesses, while tanks and armoured personnel carriers continued to patrol the city, according to an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter in the Afghan capital. However, there were reports of increased fighting around Kabul and in several other regions of the country, both from resistance groups and from Western diplomats in Islamabad. [passage omitted]

Najibullah 'Appears' Stronger*BK0903073890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT
9 Mar 90**[By Anil Penna]*

[Excerpts] Kabul, March 9 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah appears to have emerged stronger for the

moment from a coup d'etat that failed to topple his Soviet-backed government. The rebellion is expected to give a new sense of urgency to Mr. Najibullah's plans to de-radicalise his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and make it more centrist. [passage omitted]

Hard-liners within both the government and the Pakistan-based resistance have been isolated with the coup's failure, according to Mr. Najibullah, 42 and the former chief of the secret police.

Mr. Tanay has been seen as a hard-liner and belongs to the Khalq wing of the PDPA opposed to Mr. Najibullah's Parcham faction. The Khalqis, who dominate the armed forces, have been known to oppose Mr. Najibullah's policy of national reconciliation under which he has proposed talks and a coalition government with the Pakistan- and Iran-based resistance parties.

The coup attempt has exposed the fact that all was not well within the government, the party and the Armed Forces, despite Kabul's disclaimers, analysts said. It has also brought factional rivalries into the open and leaves the president no room for complacency in the future. For the moment, however, Mr. Najibullah appears to be on top.

The failed attempt has dealt a setback to the hard-liners, with Mr. Tanay and most of his followers in the higher ranks fleeing Kabul. Those who remain have been sidelined, discouraged and would have no immediate option but to fall in line and rally behind Mr. Najibullah.

Mr. Najibullah appears to have held out an olive branch to the Khalqis by naming Interior Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar as acting defence minister and Water and Electricity Minister Raz Muhammad Paktin to take Mr. Watanjar's place. Both men are Khalqis.

"Najib is much stronger now," a Soviet diplomat said here. "There is no doubt about it. He has proved he is a winner."

Another diplomat from a nonaligned country agreed. "The fact that the coup has failed has solved a lot of problems for Najib," he said. "Now he can do what he wants."

Rumours that Mr. Tanay was plotting a coup had been rife for weeks before the March 6 attempt. The rumours intensified in December when the government arrested 127 alleged coup plotters, including generals and PDPA officials close to Mr. Tanay, diplomats said. Three of them were released after a greatly angered Mr. Tanay stood up for his supporters in a stand-off against Mr. Najibullah which the diplomats said greatly boosted his image within the party. Fearing arrest himself, he had taken refuge temporarily in his ministry's offices and surrounded himself with tanks. "Najib could have moved against him then, but he didn't do anything drastic because the man's image was so good in December," the nonaligned diplomat said. "Najib was not so

strong then. Tanay by mounting an abortive coup and moving first has helped strengthen Najib's hand."

The coup attempt came at a time when Mr. Najibullah was racing against time to give a face-lift to his party, which the resistance has charged with being a Soviet puppet. Changes he proposed included dropping the party's name and overhauling its constitution to cut any links to Marxism and Leninism.

"The whole exercise was to cut loose from the past and make the PDPA acceptable for the next stage of the political game, which is negotiations with the resistance," a senior Asian diplomat said. "He wants to make the PDPA an old-fashioned nationalist party and get rid of all its radical nuances."

Mr. Najibullah is expected to use his newly enhanced position to push the changes through before the resistance parties hold a planned broad-based shura early in the summer. By completing the process before the conference gets off the ground, he would be able to pose a broad-based counterweight of his own to the mujahidin.

'Sources' Confirm Tanay's Escape to Pakistan

LD0903101590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT
9 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—The escape of Shahnawaz Tanay and his associates to Pakistan, after his abortive coup d'etat, has been confirmed by the international news sources. The sources add that Tanay met with an extremist's ringleaders, possibly Gulbuddin, stationed in Peshawar.

The Voice of America had yesterday reported that Gulbuddin in a conference held on March 7, 1990 in Peshawar said that he had assured those officers who took active part in the coup d'etat in Kabul that his group fully supports them. He further said that all his commanders took part in the plot and spare no assistance to mutineers. Gulbuddin confessed that he was earlier informed about Tanay's coup d'etat and had received a wireless message from Tanay demanding help which was responded to positively. Gulbuddin did not refuse his previous relations with the coup plotters.

Political observers in Islamabad in relation to the escape of Shahnawaz to Jamrode, north of Peshawar, with his family on March 6, 1990 say that now the question arises as to what extent Pakistan was indulged in Kabul's abortive coup d'etat.

Najibullah Widely Supported, Coup Condemned

'Partisans of God' Convey Support

LD0903101190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] A message has arrived addressed to the Supreme Council for the defense of the Homeland by the leadership of the Union of Partisans of God [Ansarollah]. Part

of the message reads: Our heroic and alert Armed Forces, under the leadership of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, have successfully foiled with heroism and bravery the sinister antinational and antipeace conspiracy of Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin and their partners.

We support this victory of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and condemn this treacherous conspiracy of the traitors to the country.

The Union of Partisans of God once again expresses its support for the national reconciliation policy and the peace programs of the Republic of Afghanistan. It declares its hatred toward those conspirators and plotters who want to create obstacles on the path to peace and security in our country.

Foreign Ministry, Diplomats Comment

LD0903094390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT
9 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—Leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, (RA), on behalf of all the personnel of the ministry strongly condemns the anti-national and anti-country ominous acts of Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin who attempted a failed coup d'etat against the high interest of the country at this sensitive historical stage, says a message released here today by the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to Najibullah, president and Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the RA.

The ministry has expressed its all-sided support for the realization of the humane policy of national reconciliation which is the only alternative to achieve peace in our war-stricken homeland at the present national and international political situation, the message says.

According to another report, the diplomatic representatives of the RA, civilian, military, students and the Afghan residing abroad under separate messages have strongly denounced the treacherous conspiracy and failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin, this sold-out elements and described their move as against the high interest of the people and peace in the country.

The messages gave their support to the peaceful measures and realization of the policy of national reconciliation under the leadership of Najibullah, president of the RA and Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the RA.

Kabul Gathering Condemns Coup

LD0903095690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT
9 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 8, (BAKHTAR)—Extensive gatherings were held today in administrative, cultural, productive, constructional institutions and firms, social

organizations, Armed Forces detachments and contingents and in all 11 precincts of Kabul City in which participants strongly condemned abortive coup d'etat and anti-human and anti-islamic actions of Tanay-Gulbuddin and their clique.

The speakers in the gatherings while vehemently denouncing mercilessly killing of innocent Afghans coup by plotters [as received] expressed their full solidarity with the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Armed Forces.

They fully supported national reconciliation policy and considered it completely in accordance with the principles of Islam. While assuring the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Country headed by Najibullah, president and chief commander of the Armed Forces of the RA stressed that they alongside with the RA Armed Forces will spare no efforts in fulfilling their national mission in this delicate historic phase of our country.

They demanded the RA state to severely punish the perpetrators of this abortive coup d'etat staged by foreign provocations lead to damaging some state establishments, residential houses and killing a number of Kabul citizens [sentence as received].

More Support Pledges

LD0903095990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—Under the leadership of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan "RA", we are ready for every kind of sacrifices in order to repulse and foil all plots and conspiracies of enemies, say messages sent by a number of state administrations, workers collectives, social and political organizations, detachments and contingents of the Armed Forces and Kabul citizens addressed to President Najibullah and supreme commander of the RA armed forces on the occasion of treacherous and anti-national plot staged by Tanay-Gulbuddin against people and country thwarted by the Armed Forces.

While expressing their firm solidarity in thwarting enemies plots [they] assured the Afghan leader that they will sacrifice themselves for the noble cause of materialization the policy of national reconciliation.

Besides, similar solidarity messages have been received from Qandahar, Parvan, Oruzgan, Lowgar, Vardak, Baghlan, Badakhshan Jowzjan and Faryab provinces.

Citizens Urged To Report 'Traitors' Hiding Out

LD0903090190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0800 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Dear compatriots, according to information, a number of traitors, partners in crime with Shahnawaz [Tanay]-Gulbuddin, are hiding in some houses and residences. We request that the dear citizens report to the nearest security department if such personalities are hiding with them. Otherwise, if the existence of such

personalities in their houses and residences is discovered by the security authorities, the citizens will be dealt with legally as partners in crime.

Resistance 'Wary' of Tanay-Hekmatyar Alliance

BK0903110090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP)—Several guerrilla commanders based in Afghanistan as well as their political counterparts in Peshawar are wary of the apparent alliance between rebel Afghan soldiers and a fundamentalist resistance group, resistance sources said Friday [9 March].

A top Pakistani daily said Friday the alliance between Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami resistance faction and rebel General Shahnawaz Tanay's forces had the backing of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency.

Political officers of three resistance groups, contacted by telephone in Peshawar, said their fighters had been ordered to "take advantage" of the confusion resulting from Tuesday's coup bid in Kabul to seize new positions. But they were also ordered "not, under any circumstances, to join the Hikmatyar and Tanay operations," said the officers, who asked that their names and organizations not be identified.

Mr. Hikmatyar, who heads Hezb-e Eslami, one of the seven Sunni Moslem parties forming an opposition government based in the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar, publicly backed the Tanay coup bid.

Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, "the Lion of Panjsher" whose influence is spread across several regions of northern Afghanistan, ordered a wait-and-see stance for his guerrillas as the army rebellion began in Kabul, a spokesman said. Mr. Mas'ud's politico-military northern council is linked to the Jamiat-e Eslami party which is also a member of the uneasy guerrilla coalition based in Peshawar and has had several well-publicised clashes with Mr. Hikmatyar's group.

The Sunni resistance alliance links widely varying ethnic, linguistic and tribal groups. Mr. Mas'ud, 37, is a Tajik, and Mr. Hikmatyar, 42, is a Pathan.

Mr. Mas'ud's spokesman said Friday that northern council forces had been attacked by government troops in the past few days in the Charikar and Jabal-us-Seraj sectors north of Kabul. But he stressed they had joined neither the army rebels nor Mr. Hikmatyar's mujahidin.

The rival guerrilla factions have clashed several times in the year since the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan.

Officials of the political arm of two guerrilla organizations confirmed Friday that their mujahidin had stepped

up operations in several provinces, particularly in the south and east of Afghanistan, while Afghan army units battled each other. They, too, said their forces had refused to join the Tanay-Hikmatyar alliance.

Since last summer, there had been reports in Pakistan of contacts between Mr. Hikmatyar and Gen. Tanay, who was a top member of the Khalq faction of the ruling party in Kabul which opposed the policies of President Najibullah.

"Although the 'hard-line communist' Tanay and the Hezb-e Islami Hikmatyar make strange bedfellows, there are some common denominators," THE NATION newspaper said Friday. "Both are opposed to any role for the ex-king (Zahir Shah, 76, living in exile in Rome), opposed to an imposed superpower settlement and they share ethnic and tribal ties. "Both belong to the Ghilzai section of the Pathans, which has traditionally opposed the Durrani Pathans, to which the ex-king belongs," the paper said.

Mr. Hikmatyar has alleged the existence of a conspiracy between Moscow and Washington to restore the monarchy in Afghanistan.

THE NATION said that Pakistan and its intelligence services, which continue to support Mr. Hikmatyar, "will now help coordinate further joint rebel-mujahidin offensives against the regime."

Foreign Minister Sends UN Message on Coup

LD0903121590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1130 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] A message has been communicated by 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations secretary general, in connection with the treacherous coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin [Shahnawaz Tanay and Gulbuddin, Hikmatyar] and the role of the Pakistan intelligence agency ISI, which organized it.

In the message, having presented information about this treacherous plot and heavy losses resulting from it, it is requested that the text of this message be issued as an official document of the United Nations.

No Information in Moscow on Fate of Afghan Envoy

AU0903135190 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT
9 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 9 (AFP)—The whereabouts of the Afghan ambassador to Moscow, expelled on Friday from the ruling Afghan communist party for involvement in this week's Kabul coup bid, were a mystery here Friday.

At the Afghan Embassy here, the charge d'affaires Sayyed Murtaza told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he did not know where Ambassador Muhammad Gulabzoy was.

The same diplomat told a news conference on Wednesday that the ambassador had been ill for the past 10 days, but stated he was in Moscow.

Three other members of the Politburo and the leader of the coup bid, former defence chief Shahnawaz Tanai, were also expelled on Friday from the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Mr. Gulabzoy had been interior minister and head of state security in Afghanistan before he was posted to the Soviet capital. Diplomats said President Najibullah wanted to distance Mr. Gulabzoy from Kabul, where he was considered a hardliner, opposed to the withdrawal of Soviet troops and negotiating with the guerrilla resistance movement.

Diplomats also said Mr. Gulabzoy was believed capable of planning a coup. According to unconfirmed reports in Kabul, he tried to return secretly to Kabul on the eve of Tuesday's coup attempt.

Bangladesh

Mahmud, Pakistani Counterpart Hold Formal Talks

BK0803113390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Bangladesh and Pakistan held formal talks in Dhaka today on bilateral relations and the regional situation, including the stalled SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit.

The Bangladesh side at the talks was led by the foreign minister, Anisul Islam Mahmud, while the Pakistan side by its foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Before the formal talks, the two foreign ministers held an exclusive meeting for about 40 minutes. Official sources say the two sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including the expansion of economic cooperation. Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud on the talks he had with government leaders in other SAARC countries on the date and venue of the summit. Mr. Mahmud said Bangladesh will go ahead with any consensus that will be reached among the member states. The Pakistan foreign minister also briefed the Bangladesh counterpart on the situation in Kashmir. Mr. Mahmud said Bangladesh hopes the matter will be resolved peacefully.

Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the envoy of SAARC chairperson Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, called on President Ershad this morning. He handed over a letter to the president from the Pakistan prime minister. The Pakistan foreign minister has said his country always attaches importance to its relationship with Bangladesh. President Ershad asked Sahabzada Yaqub to convey his regards and greetings to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He expressed firm commitment of Bangladesh to the strengthening of the SAARC as an instrument for the promotion of regional

cooperation. President Ershad said he is satisfied with the excellent friendly ties between the two countries.

Pakistan is to supply a cement plant to Bangladesh under a memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries recently. The plant will have a 65 tons per hour grinding and packing capacity. It will cost \$5.61 million. An agreement for the supply of a sugar plant to Bangladesh by Pakistan is expected to be concluded shortly. The plant will produce 1,500 tons daily.

Ershad Voices Concern Over Situation in Kashmir

*BK0903052390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] A group of editors at a meeting with President Ershad today expressed deep concern over the killing of Muslims in Kashmir. The editors urged the Bangladesh Government to take a positive stand supporting the rightful cause of the people of Kashmir.

President Ershad said Bangladesh is alive to the situation. The government is quite aware of the sentiments of the people about the killing of their Muslim brethren in Kashmir. Bangladesh, he said, is in favor of settling the issue through peaceful negotiations.

The president expressed concern over the (?oppression) on the Muslims of Kashmir and said the oppressive measures should be stopped immediately. [passage omitted]

Customs Authorities Seize Heroin, Detain Ship

*BK0603072690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT
6 Mar 90*

[Text] Dhaka, March 6 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have detained a local ship in Chittagong port after customs officials seized heroin and other drugs worth 30 million taka (about nine million dollars), press reports here said Tuesday. They said port police were guarding the M.V. Sumudra Raj, owned by a private Bangladeshi shipping company, following the customs raid Sunday in the vessel's engine room which recovered two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin, 13 kilograms (28.5 pounds) of hemp and 2,500 ampoules of banned injections. The authorities are interrogating the captain and crew members of the ship and ordered it to stay anchored until the investigation was over.

The raid came four days after the ship returned to Chittagong from a regular cargo voyage from Karachi via Calcutta, reports said, adding the customs had acted on a tip-off.

India

Policy Rethink Possible 'if Pakistan Goes Nuclear'

*BK0803161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, today said that India might reconsider its nuclear policy if Pakistan goes nuclear. Speaking to newsmen at Visakhapatnam after inaugurating the 56-crore rupee north dry dock complex, Dr. Ramanna stressed the need for acquisition of modern technology and skills for the modernization of the Navy.

About tensions and relations with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue, he expressed the hope that an all-party meeting would provide some solution to it.

'Pakistan's Interference' Protested in Jammu

*BK0803150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] A big procession was taken out in Jammu today in protest against Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of the country. Organized by the coordination committee of various parties, the processionists held demonstrations at different places in the city.

Later, in a memorandum submitted to the divisional commissioner, Jammu, they demanded stern action against pro-Pakistani elements and militants in the Kashmir Valley.

Spokesman Hails U.S. Statement on Kashmir Issue

*BK0803163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] India today welcomed the U.S. Government statement that it did not favor a plebiscite in Kashmir and the issue should be resolved by India and Pakistan bilaterally in the spirit of the Simla agreement. This was stated by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today, when newsmen drew his attention to the statement by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, Mr. John Kelly, at a congressional hearing yesterday. The spokesman said that on major issues, Mr. Kelly's views conform to our thinking and support our viewpoint.

Meanwhile, informed sources in New Delhi maintained that the evidence furnished by India to the U.S. Administration conclusively proved Pakistan's involvement in fomenting trouble in Punjab and Kashmir.

Spokesman Opposes Interference in Afghan 'Crisis'

*BK0803160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1542 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] India has reiterated its position that there should be no outside interference to resolve the Afghanistan crisis. This was stated by an official spokesman to

newsmen in New Delhi today. He said India is for strict implementation of the Geneva accords, and would like to see a political settlement of the problem which should be arrived at by Afghans themselves without external interference or intervention. The spokesman said that such a settlement should take into account the existing realities and legitimate interests of all concerned. He said India is for stoppage of bloodshed in Afghanistan and preservation of its status as a sovereign, nonaligned, and independent country.

Gujral Discusses Jewish Emigration, Kashmir

NC0503065490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT
5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Kumar Inder Gujral, Indian Minister of External Affairs, stressed his country's strong opposition to the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their resettlement in the occupied Arab territories. This emigration would change the demographic basis in Palestine, he said.

In an interview with AL-AKHBAR published today, Gujral stated: We do not object to the Jews' right to emigrate from the Soviet Union or anywhere else, but we strongly oppose the demographic change this would cause in the occupied Arab territories. He added that many Jews are deceived in the beginning by Zionist propaganda, which pictures Israel as a paradise, but they soon discover the truth, reject their new position, return to their countries, or go to the United States or other Western countries. [passage omitted]

Regarding the problem of Kashmir, the Indian minister stressed that his government will not do anything that would lead to a military confrontation with Pakistan. He said that India had many regional problems which had been resolved in a democratic way and that the Simla Agreement signed by India and Pakistan points the way to the resolution of this problem.

'Arafat Stops Over in Bombay en Route to Tunisia

BK0803164290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 8 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat made a previously unannounced stopover in Bombay overnight on his way from Malaysia to Tunisia, the PLO envoy here said Thursday [8 March]. PLO Ambassador Khalif al-Shaykh said Mr. 'Arafat spent nearly 90 minutes in the Bombay airport talking to him, after arriving in the Western metropolis at least three hours behind schedule. He gave no further details.

Mr. 'Arafat is due to visit India later this month. The envoy said that the PLO chairman would be in New Delhi in the last week of March, but declined to give the exact dates for reasons of security.

India has no diplomatic relations with Israel and was among the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine announced by Mr. 'Arafat in Algiers in November 1988.

Politicians Express Concern Over Kashmir Situation

Delegation To Visit Srinagar

BK0803042990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] A delegation of major political parties is leaving New Delhi for Srinagar in a short while from now to meet the people and have a firsthand account of the situation in the valley. The decision was taken at a meeting of the leaders of various parties in New Delhi yesterday held at the initiative of the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

In a statement issued last night, the leaders of the National Front, Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the National Conference resolved to unitedly defend the unity and integrity of the country. Describing the situation as one causing grave anxiety, they said the antinational and hostile forces operating from outside the country have re-emerged with greater severity and virulence. The leaders viewed with serious concern the rise of fundamentalist and secessionist elements in the valley and Pakistan's attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue. They also made it clear that the cultural and religious identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be fully protected and the expression of their aspirations guaranteed.

Expressing deep anguish at the deaths of innocent people in the state, all parties resolved to resist unitedly any attempt by misguided quarters to disrupt the unity of the people.

In the five-hour-long meeting, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, emphasized that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution shall be preserved in letter and spirit. The prime minister's assertion came in response to the position taken by the National Conference at the meeting. Besides the prime minister, the government was represented at the meeting by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; and the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi; the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, also attended the meeting.

Parties 'Taking Stock of Situation'

BK0803131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Representatives of major political parties now in Srinagar are engaged in taking stock of the situation in the Kashmir valley. The delegation, including the deputy

prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, met groups of people informally soon after their arrival in the city this morning. Later, the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, and senior officials briefed the leaders on the conditions prevailing in the valley.

The political parties in the delegation are Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], National Conference, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. Besides Mr. Devi Lal, the ruling National Front is represented by the Union ministers, Mr. George Fernandes and Mr. Dinesh Goswami.

The decision to send a joint team to Kashmir was taken yesterday by the political parties at their meeting in New Delhi held at the initiative of the prime minister.

Willing To Meet 'Subversives'

*BK0803164790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] Both the ruling National Front and the opposition Congress-I have indicated their willingness to initiate talks with the subversives in Kashmir, provided they give up violence and abide by the Constitution. The union law minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, gave such indication while talking to newsmen separately in Srinagar today. The leaders are a part of the delegation of political parties which is now in the state capital to assess the situation in the Kashmir Valley. [passage omitted]

Various leaders are now busy talking individually with the groups of local people to know their viewpoints. They are also scheduled to meet a number of associations active in the valley.

Earlier, the governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, provided the delegates his assessment of the situation and outlined the possible options. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent Akshay Raut, accompanying the delegation, understands that the governor's discussions with the political parties covered a whole range of issues, including law and order, dissolution of the state assembly, and the migration of minorities.

Various political parties are reported to have reacted sharply to the governor's assessment of the situation. Briefing newsmen on the meeting, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, however, said that the overall approach of all political parties was constructive. On the governor's role, he said it is time not to cast the aspersions but to work together to find a solution to the serious problem.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi called upon the center to come out immediately with a plan of political action to defuse the situation in the valley. Mr. Gandhi said everyone who feels that Kashmir is part of India should be carried along.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member said while terrorists have to be dealt with strength, the common people should be given relief.

Describing the situation as grave, the left parties said emphasis has to be given on mobilizing popular forces.

Mission Termed 'Fruitful'

*BK0903100290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] Major political parties have emphasized the gravity of the situation in the Kashmir valley and called for urgent consensus action. The joint delegation of national parties returned to New Delhi a short while ago after assessing the ground realities in the valley and sensing the mood of the local people. They described their mission as fruitful, and the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who received the delegation on their return, expressed the hope that a solution will come after the ongoing efforts. Talking to newsmen, Dr. Abdullah said that the solution will have to be within the framework of the Constitution. The militants must be isolated and nationalist forces in the valley strengthened, he said.

During their stay, leaders of the Congress-I, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the National Conference, and the ruling National front met groups of people separately and learned their viewpoints. AIR [All India radio] special correspondent Akshay Raut reports that the center is likely to decide the future course of action on Kashmir after getting feedback from the political parties.

Briefing newsmen, the union railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, underlined the need to restore political activity in the valley and rejuvenate forces which have traditionally fought secessionist tendencies. On the varying perceptions on the governor's role, he said the governor has a difficult job at hand. He pointed out that the joint visit has established the fact that on Kashmir the approach is national. Mr. Fernandes, who met the workers, trade union delegations, employees, and the general public, has stayed back in Srinagar for further interaction with them. After talking to representatives of various political parties, our correspondent says that the (?feel) and knowledge about the situation has been updated and a good beginning has been made toward restoration of normalcy. The leaders, however, pointed out that it is going to be a long battle, especially at the political level.

3,000 Arrested Before Proposed Tamil Nadu Strike

*BK0903085090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, over 3,000 people, including the TNCC-I [Tamil Nadu Congress-I Committee] president,

Mr K. Ramamurthy, and three Congress-I MLA's [members of legislative assembly], have been taken into preventive custody in view of the proposed rail roko [train blockade] agitation from tonight.

The Congress-I is demanding the renaming of Maraimalainagar railway station after former Tamil Nadu chief minister, K. Kamaraj, a call which has been rejected by the state government.

2 Killed in Punjab Bombing; Parties Call Strike

*BK0803162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] In Punjab, the death toll in last evening's shoot out by terrorists in Abohar town of Ferozepore District has gone up to 30. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, after visiting the site told AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent that 22 persons, including a small girl, died on the spot and eight succumbed to injuries in the hospital later. He said the injured have been admitted in the military and civil hospitals of Abohar and civil hospital Ganganagar in Rajasthan.

While relief and rescue operations were on, a bomb exploded in a shop, killing two persons. The security forces have been put on maximum alert, and raids on suspected hideouts of terrorists are being carried out.

The governor visited the houses of the bereaved families and personally offered his condolences. He has announced an ex gratia payment of 50,000 rupees to the next of kin of the deceased. Twenty thousand rupees will be given in cash, and the rest as national savings certificates.

Seven political parties have given a call for a bundh [strike] in the state tomorrow to protest against the killing of the innocent people. In a joint statement in Chandigarh today, the parties expressed sympathy with the bereaved families and appealed to the people of Punjab to maintain unity and foil the conspiracy of terrorists. The parties are Akali Dal-L, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata Dal, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Congress-I.

'Terrorists' Attack Minibus, Kill 10 in Punjab

*BK0903015690 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi
0130 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead 10 people traveling in a minibus near Tarn Taran last night. Agency reports, quoting police sources, say the terrorists stopped the bus and opened fire with AK-47 rifles.

The bus was on its way to Khalra from Rajdeo village in Khalra police station area of Amritsar District.

The terrorists managed to escape despite the presence of a large number of security personnel.

Meanwhile, various political parties have called for a strike in Punjab today to protest the killings of innocent people in Abohar on Wednesday [7 March] night. The parties are Bharatiya Janata Party, the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India-Marxist, Akali Dal-Longowal, Janata Dal, and Congress-I.

Iran

U.S.-Iranian Contacts on Hostages Reported

*JN0803220490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT
8 Mar 90*

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (INA)—Informed Western diplomatic sources have said that direct contacts are currently under way between Washington and Tehran to resolve the hostage issue. The sources told INA in Cairo that two delegations, one from Iran and another from the United States, have held four rounds of talks in the FRG on this issue. The Iranian delegation to these talks was led by a director of the European desk at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was a member of the U.S. delegation to talks, the sources added.

The sources indicated that these talks were preceded by two rounds of talks between the two delegations. The first round of talks was held in Geneva in January while the second round was held in New York in December. [sentence as received] The sources added that Pakistan played an important role in indirect negotiations between Washington and Tehran before the recent talks were held.

The sources said they expected the hostages held in Lebanon, along with two U.S. prisoners held in Tehran, to be released this summer in return for Washington's release of a number of "pro-Iran sectarianists". The sources added that a U.S. delegation comprising former attorney general Ramsey Clark and clergyman Jesse Jackson, a prominent figure in the Democratic Party, will visit Iran soon to lay the groundwork for ending the hostage problem.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Answers Questions on Hostages

*LD0703213690 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1634 GMT 7 Mar 90*

[News conference with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 7 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [correspondent] [passage indistinct] Have there been any discussions with the United States regarding this matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the hostages, we are now saying what we have always said. We have said that the issue of the hostages does not concern us at all, and it really does not concern us. Of course, Britain, the United States, and others expect us to make use of the influence that we have in Lebanon. We have told them

that we will make use of our influence at a time when you will also make use of your influence in our interest, when you come and release our hostages in Lebanon or when you reduce your mischievous acts against us.

Of course, the Americans continue to be obstinate and say: No, we are not prepared to negotiate over the hostages. In fact, we are not a party to the negotiations, the party of the issue are the Lebanese. As to whether there have been any discussions, in The Hague we always have discussions with the Americans over our disputes. There America is on one side and we are on the other side and we discuss the legal issues that we have there. At times there are also discussions about the hostages. Again recently there have been some discussions. Former remarks have been repeated.

Of course, we are really interested. I personally, and the rest of our friends, too, are interested that the issue of the hostages be settled in some way. The Americans and others always make use of this issue as a lever for portraying the Lebanese as terrorists, and portraying us as their supporters. Inside their country they need to have such levers. Therefore, they are not very serious about settling the issue. We are interested that the issue be settled. If the Lebanese themselves go and settle their problems with them in some way, we will also encourage this step. There have been no other discussions except messages.

During this time, any time that any of Western politicians come here, or their friends come, they bring certain messages saying that they wish the issue to be settled, they wish the disputes and differences to be resolved. We tell them the same things, and they also go on saying the same things.

[Correspondent] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Of course, my question has become a little repetitive. However, that was one aspect of the issue and I do not repeat it again. Recently in the domestic English-language newspapers the issue of the release of the hostages has been raised. Is this an official move by the government, and is it a means of establishing contact with the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think that the issue reached a climax when Mr. Haj Fadlallah [Allameh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah] said in a speech in Lebanon that he was in favor of the freeing of the hostages, and that he described it as a point of weakness for Lebanon. Coinciding with that, one of the Iranian newspapers which is written in English apparently also had said something similar here. The coincidence of these two remarks has meant something to the world. In our general remarks there were also the same remarks, that we are interested that the issue of the hostages be settled. This has given rise to some hopes. I think that they themselves probably had some contact with, maybe, the governments of the region, and there, and also there might have been other issues which have given rise to a hope more than before.

I also see from afar the climate that in any case the issue of the hostages is moving towards a solution. However, we are not such a principal pillar [as heard] in the issue. We can exert an influence with such recommendations. [passage omitted]

Bush Telephone Conversation With President 'Hoax'

LD0903112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] According to a REUTER report, a spokesman for the White House announced that last month the U.S. President George Bush had a telephone conversation with a man who was pretending to be Iran's president; it later became clear that the phone call was a joke.

(Sieve Hart). White House spokesman, said: About one month ago, a member of the National Security Council received a message from a person who introduced himself as an Iranian official and was saying that the president of Iran would like to talk to Bush on the hostages issue. (Hart) added: The White House intended to find out whether the person making the telephone call was genuine or if it was a hoax. Bush, in order to keep his earlier promise of being ready to hold talks with Iran's president at any time, said that he was prepared to talk to him. It became clear later, however, that the phone call was a joke. (Hart) did not explain the issue further.

West Accused of 'Malicious Publicity'

NC0803170090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
27 Feb 90 p 5

[By M. Akhondzadeh: "On Matters of Principle"]

[Text] After the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, American administration and the West in general, on different occasions, justified the shortcoming of their political analysis of the revolution and indeed their system through airing malicious publicity against Iran.

Their unceasing and uninterrupted support of the deposed shah, to the last moment of his reign, unfolded enough evidence to believe their ignorance and prejudice against the Islamic forces in Iran.

Democracy, human rights, and in the case of Iran—the issue of hostages—are the three components of a publicity package to discredit the revolutionary countries.

As far as Iran is concerned, the package is developing cracks and backfiring. The visit of the U.N. representative Reynaldo Galindo Pohl to Iran surprised many Western observers. It is quite natural, being a member of U.N. and a signatory of the U.N. Human Rights Charter to have Mr. Pohl in Tehran. What is unnatural is the Western reaction and analysis of the visit. They do not understand that the revolution is successfully entering into post-war era, where war time regulations—an internationally accepted norm—are relaxed.

On the issue of hostages Iran has a legitimate right to demand compensation. Our CDA [charge d'affaires] along with three of his staff were the main victims of hostage issue in Lebanon. In Islam unlike communism, aims however great it may be does not justify the means. From this stand it has always been argued that release of all hostages irrespective of their nationality is an Islamic and humanitarian duty.

Our differences with the West is on matter of principle, and on matters of principle we always have the support and sympathy of public opinion worldwide. A clear example is the Fatwa of Imam Khomeyni on apostate Salman Rushdie. The Fatwa had three important elements: 1-Issued for the satisfaction of Allah and discharge of a Godly obligation. 2-Was based on a sacred religious order. 3-Had the consensus of all schools of thought in Islam and the wholehearted support of Muslims throughout the world.

Ministry Spokesman on UN Human Rights Report

LD0803174190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Our correspondent has conducted an interview with the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran to learn about his views regarding the resolution issued by the UN Human Rights Commission, which you will now hear:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Following the release of the report of the special representative of the UN Human Rights Commission sent to Iran, the said UN commission last night approved a resolution. What is your excellency's assessment, in your capacity as the Foreign Ministry spokesman, regarding the said issue.

[Unnamed spokesman] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The commission's resolution has been issued on the basis of the report by Mr. Galindo Pohl. Of course, unlike the report, which has an investigative and legal character, the resolutions of the commission have mainly a political character. During recent years, the commission has approved one-sided and unfair resolutions on the basis of allegations by the terrorist grouplets.

This year, too, there have been efforts to give a political coloring and smell to the resolution despite the stances of the commission's representative and the clarity of his report with regard to the human rights situation in Iran. For example, you know that in its annual report on human rights the U.S. State Department officially alleged that political prisoners are being executed in Iran under the label of narcotics smugglers. Now in his report, Mr. Galindo Pohl refutes these accusations emphatically. Those countries which had adopted one-sided and hostile stances for many years against the Islamic Republic of Iran—countries which base their official

statements on the mendacious claims of the counterrevolution and terrorist grouplets—will naturally not be able to change their stances swiftly before the world public opinion.

In any case, it is certain that the terrorist and counter-revolution grouplets are now discredited and their eight-year endeavors against the Islamic Republic of Iran have been wasted.

[Correspondent] How will the Islamic Republic of Iran deal with the commission and also with the special rapporteur of the commission?

[Spokesman] You know that the stay of Mr Galindo Pohl in Tehran was short; so the Islamic Republic of Iran has invited him to come to Iran again so that during his forthcoming visit he can have a better opportunity to acquaint himself with the legal values of Islam and to transmit to the commission, once again, those nuances which exist in the Islamic judiciary and legal system.

Situation Following Afghan Coup Attempt Viewed

LD0803151890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1106 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the attempted coup against the Kabul regime, the capital of Afghanistan continues to be under martial law. Meanwhile, news reports quoting Kabul regime officials are giving news of an end to the clashes and the defeat of those behind the coup. On the basis of these same reports, the Bagram airport in eastern Kabul is still in the hands of those who attempted the coup. At the same time, the impression gained from the radio message by Najibullah, head of the regime ruling over Kabul, yesterday, is that clashes between forces loyal to the regime and those involved in the coup are continuing, and it is being said that the situation in Afghanistan is still disturbed. At the same time, Najibullah explained that the attempts of Shahnawaz Tanay, the former defense minister, to carry out a coup have been crushed.

Following the recent coup carried out by the forces of the Khalq wing in the Armed Forces of the Kabul regime, Najibullah, while holding General Tanay responsible, spoke of the latter's secret links with one of the leaders of the Afghan groups based in Peshawar. Some observers have expressed doubts about this. These same observers, in spite of the discovery of an underground network affiliated to the mentioned group in contact with the leaders of the Khalq wing of the ruling party, which has been declared by Najibullah, believe existing differences between the Khalq wing led by General Shahnawaz Tanay and the Parcham wing led by Najibullah were too deep to allow one to examine it outside the framework of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) of Afghanistan, that is, the ruling party. In this respect, political observers of the Afghan question have not been surprised by reports of intense clashes between the armed

forces of the two mentioned wings, in the course of the latest coup, which involved the use of heavy weapons and the air raids of each others' positions. This suspicion will gain strength if we consider that following the revelation of the plan to remove Najibullah last December—which led to the arrest of 124 political-military leaders of the Khalq wing and the placement of General Tanay under watch—it appears this wing had no choice but to react to preserve its share of power.

The formation of militias affiliated to the regime and their increasing share in defending Kabul and other regions under the regime's control intensified the suspicions of the members of the Khalq wing toward the possibilities of preliminary steps being taken to deprive them of power in the Armed Forces. This factor which, it is said, was put to work in line with Najibullah's national reconciliation policy based on Moscow's plan, is really, on the one hand, an attempt on the part of Najibullah and the Kremlin's statesmen to prevent the division of the ruling party, and on the other to secure the politico-economic interests of the Soviet Union in the future of Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that to ensure the success of such a political plan, which is also what the Kremlin desires, the legal and logical elimination of opposing hardliners [tondrow] within the ruling clique of the Kabul regime can be counted as a fundamental factor. The reaction of the communist opponents of the Kabul regime, under the pressures mentioned, and their attempts to carry out an abortive and extensive coup has now prepared the conditions for the materialization of such methods for Najibullah and his supporters in the Parcham wing. [as heard] The appointment of Muhammad Aslam Watanjar and Muhammad Raz as the new ministers of defense and interior, demonstrates that the Khalq wing, which was removed from power following the overthrow of Hafizullah Amin, will now, considering the latest development in the political arena, not only lose its power base in the Armed Forces but will also be deprived of holding high positions in the domination of party and governmental hierarchy.

Thus, Najibullah, in line with his national reconciliation policies—which up to now have repeatedly faced defeat due to the refusal of the Afghan Mujahidin, while preventing the breaking-away of the Marxist Khalq party in the aftermath of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan—has succeeded in continuing to put forward this party as a potential alternative in the future of that country. At the same time, the head of the regime ruling over Kabul, by uniting the Army and the party (which, in reality, are counted as the political and military arms of the regime) will endeavor to enjoy the benefits of the solid and united support of its own regime in the process of talks and negotiations concerning the future of Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, the latest developments in the politico-military arena of Afghanistan cannot be assessed and analyzed merely from their optimistic standpoint. This

is because with an end to the clashes between the various factions of the ruling party in Kabul, reports received tell of fresh clashes between the supporters of the two factions of Parcham and Khalq in process in other regions, and of a number of persons on both sides killed and injured in the course of the clashes that occurred after the coup d'etat was crushed. This demonstrates Najibullah will be facing new difficulties; the continuation of such a trend cannot act as a strong backing to the continuation of the rule of the Kabul regime. On this score, some political observers maintain that the future of Najibullah and the regime under his care in Kabul—which has drawn on unstinting financial and arms assistances from Moscow, especially after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, to survive—is fairly bleak.

In truth, however much Najibullah tries to arrive at a decisive unity within the political rule of his regime, nevertheless, every day that he takes a step toward the objectives of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, he distances himself from the Muslim people of his country. This is one aspect of the reality of the Kabul regime which makes it, in the eyes of the mass of the people of that country, impossible for it to have a share in the political future of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan—with a year behind them since the last of the defeated soldiers of the Soviet Red Army left their territory—are continuing to face the interferences of global arrogance and the arming of the warring parties, also by global arrogance. This issue will not only strengthen the resolve of the people of Afghanistan to achieve the rights of determining their destiny and establishing an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government based on the preservation of the historical identity of Afghanistan, but will also leave their hands free to eliminate alien elements inside and outside Afghanistan after an 11-year struggle against the occupiers and communists based in Kabul.

Paper Criticizes 'Imperialist News Media'

LD0603112990 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT
6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 6, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday denounced recent campaign of "imperialist news media in reviving the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon and again attributing it to Iran."

The Persian-language JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial today noted that these "multiple purposes" efforts aimed at misrepresenting Iran and portraying it as a pro-terrorist state. On the other hand the Western media by spreading rumors on talks between Tehran and Washington work to create an atmosphere of mistrust inside the country.

Amid such a propaganda tirade, the paper stressed, Iranian mass media shoulder a grave responsibility because they know well that in the past 10 years the U.S. and its lackeys had impudently tried to defame genuine supporters of the Islamic revolution as terrorists.

"Naturally, under the condition that Washington has completely failed in all its organized efforts (to portray the genuine followers of the Islamic revolution in the world as terrorists). Those in the local press who somehow relate the issue of Lebanese hostages to Iran-U.S. ties and offer guidelines in this connection, if not mercenary, are no doubt among those who do not know what to do or what to say," noted the daily.

International arrogance and its lackeys are attempting to mar reputation of the Iranian officials in the nation's public opinion, the editorial said, adding that enemies had placed their hope on creating an atmosphere of mistrust between the people and the government.

The article concluded by saying, "It is not to the advantage of the country to become univocal with imperialist loudspeakers and utter what is desired, for example, by the Voice of America."

Nepal

Royal Nominee to Parliament Resigns; Protest Held

BK0803151590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT
8 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 8 (AFP)—Veteran communist leader and recent government critic D.P. Adhikari resigned Thursday [8 March] from his seat in Nepal's national panchayat or parliament. Mr. Adhikari, a royal nominee to parliament, said he had resigned out of a sense of moral obligation and "self dignity," adding that moves were under way in the Morang district panchayat (council) for him to tender his resignation. He said this was mainly because he had signed and issued February 22 a joint statement, along with 39 other MPs [members of parliament], criticising Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh Shrestha's "style of working with a handful of cabinet members." The statement issued on February 22 had criticised the prime minister's handling of the current political crisis in Nepal, where the opposition has called for an end to the 30-year-old partyless panchayat system.

Nepal's King Birendra in 1986 nominated Mr. Adhikari, a former minister for water resources, to a seat in parliament from Morang, an industrial town some 290 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu.

Mr. Adhikari was the second nominated member of the national panchayat to resign. Former Commerce Minister Shiva Raj Pant gave up his seat in September citing differences with Mr. Shrestha.

The unicameral legislature has 112 elected members representing the country's 75 districts and 28 members nominated by the king.

Of the 40 MP's who signed the February 22 statement, four have since withdrawn their criticism while another royal nominee, Dirgha Raj Prasai, is also expected to

resign his seat following pressure from the district panchayat representing the far southeast of Nepal.

Meanwhile, more than 300 Nepalese women on Thursday marked International Women's Day by tying black ribbons on their arms or wearing black headbands in protest at the police crackdown on anti-government demonstrations around the country since February 18 and alleged torture of female protestors. The women, including doctors, engineers, writers, teachers and student leaders, gathered at the Padma Kanya campus for a meeting held by the International Women's Day organisation committee, witnesses said.

Speakers at the meeting denounced police brutality against unarmed people during the peaceful protest marches and demonstrations calling for changes to the current political system. Kamala Pant, president of the left-wing All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union of Padma Kanya, denounced alleged torture against peaceful demonstrators and claimed that police had on February 16 tortured female students at a college in Pokhara, 225 kilometres west of here. She claimed that one student, Laxmi Karki, had died from baton injuries suffered when police raided the Prithivi Narayan campus, and Miss Pant added that the girl's body had not yet been returned to her family.

Speakers also criticised the government for not allowing detainees visits from their families and alleged inhuman treatment of those people arrested in the recent crackdown on dissent.

The meeting passed a resolution demanding that a royal inquiry commission be set up to investigate alleged brutality towards political detainees. It also passed a resolution calling on the government to provide adequate food and medical treatment for those held in jail.

In a related development, unconfirmed reports said police arrested 50 women Thursday in Morang as they staged a demonstration to protest the government's crackdown and to call for better treatment of political prisoners.

The women's meeting here came as the Nepalese Government announced Thursday the release of 288 political detainees and students bringing to 1,868 the number of people released in the last two weeks. An official spokesman said that 991 people remained in jail in connection with the recent anti-government protests but added that they would be gradually released if not involved in subversive acts. An opposition source, however, claimed that about 6,000 people were still in detention around the country.

2 FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW Issues Seized

BK0603121390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT
6 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 6 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government has seized the March 1 and 8 issues of the FAR

EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, officials said Tuesday [6 March]. They said that an article in the March 8 issue of the Hong Kong-based news magazine was found objectionable but gave no further explanation. The issue contained a four-page article by the REVIEW's South Asia bureau chief on Nepal's current social, economic and political conditions, one official said.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Spokesman on Najibullah's Location

*BK0803162390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] A heavy concentration of Afghan troops has been reported near Kabul; almost all roads leading to the city are blocked, and the Afghan capital is completely isolated from the rest of the country.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that it appears all divisions stationed in and around the capital seem split and are fighting against each other. He said according to reports, fierce fighting continues in Bagram, Khowst, Herat, and Kalat. Heavy fighting is continuing very near Khowst, and contacts have been established between the Khowst garrison commander and the attacking mujahidin forces for terms of surrender to the mujahidin.

About the aerial attacks on the Bagram air base, the spokesman said two aircraft that took off from Mazar-I-Sharif bombed the air base. These attacks inflicted considerable damage to the base. The Najibullah regime had asked one of the two divisions stationed in Jalalabad to advance toward Kabul to ease pressure on its troops there, but this division still is in Sarowbi and is not advancing toward Kabul.

The spokesman said the troops involved in the coup against Najibullah are not surrendering in large numbers, but might be retreating to safer places to launch new attacks. The spokesman said various field commanders of the mujahidin and rebel troops are extending strategic cooperation to each other.

The spokesman said according to the reports, Najibullah is in Kabul, but he is issuing instructions from an embassy and not from the presidential palace. General Shanawaz Tanay also is deep inside Afghan territory. There is evidence he has access to a mobile transmitter from which he is broadcasting to the Afghan people that he and the mujahidin leaders have agreed to continue the uprising until Najibullah is overthrown and a broad-based government is set up in Kabul that is acceptable to the Afghan people.

Answering a question, the spokesman said there is no way the Najibullah regime will emerge stronger from the coup. The rebellion of part of a large section of his own Armed Forces has destroyed the entire political base he

had built for himself during the past year. He added it is the moment of reevaluation for supporters of the Najibullah regime.

Answering another question, he said the Soviet Union has not taken sides so far in Afghanistan, and there is no evidence of massive Soviet efforts to support either Najibullah or General Tanay.

The spokesman said Pakistan believes a solution of the Afghan problem is available. There is the traditional instrument in Afghan society of Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly], which could and should be convened, and it could greatly contain the tension in a society that has been torn on ideological and other grounds.

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Afghan Coup

*BK0903084090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 9 Mar 90*

[Text] An official spokesman has categorically denied the Kabul regime accusation that Pakistan is involved in the coup in Afghanistan and described it as utterly baseless. He said in Islamabad that recent events have proved that the Kabul regime stands rejected not only by all sections of Afghan opinion but also by important elements of the Afghan Armed Forces and the civil administration.

Special Cabinet Session Assesses Afghan Issue

*BK0803142590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] A special session of the Cabinet in Islamabad today assessed the latest situation in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto presided over the session. The chief ministers of four provinces also attended.

In the session it was noted the current developments in Afghanistan result from an attempt by a large section of the Afghan Armed Forces to overthrow the Najibullah regime. The Cabinet also noted the full cooperation extended by various mujahidin groups to the forces opposed to the Najibullah regime.

An official spokesman told newsmen the cooperation extended by these groups makes it clear there is complete unanimity of view in Afghanistan that the Najibullah regime is the (?main) obstacle in the path of finding of a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

The session reiterated Pakistan's principled stand that the only solution for the Afghan problem lies in setting up a broad-based government of all political groups. This will restore peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan, thus enabling the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and other countries to return to their homeland with honor and dignity.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the presence of all four chief ministers at the special session of the Cabinet

reflects a national consensus on issues of national importance, such as Kashmir and Afghanistan, which influence national security.

Hekmatyar May Have Been Aware of Coup Plot

BK0903030490 London BBC World Service in English
0215 GMT 9 Mar 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Pakistan's denial of any involvement in the attempt to overthrow President Najibullah's regime followed hard on the heels of allegations from Kabul that it was implicated in the conspiracy. Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan described the charges as utterly baseless, as Lyce Doucet reports from Islamabad:

[Begin recording] The foreign secretary said there have been numerous high-level meetings here over the past few days involving top political and military officials. There were no signs, he said, that any of these groups had prior knowledge of the coup. The Afghan Foreign Ministry says it has documents proving there has been an agreement between Pakistani authorities and the coup leader, General Tanai, allowing him to flee to Pakistan if the coup failed—reports Mr. Khan rejected as utterly baseless.

Over the past few days, the Foreign Office has repeatedly stressed it was not involved in this week's coup attempt. However, informed sources believe the guerrilla leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, may have been aware of coup preparations. Mr. Hekmatyar's party is known to have infiltrated the Afghan military and it has close links to Pakistan's military intelligence agency—the ISI [Interservices Intelligence]—which has played the principle role in covert assistance to the resistance. Mr. Hekmatyar has often spoken of a possible coup involving rebel officers and the mujahidin. Whether or not some elements in the Pakistan establishment were involved in this coup plot, they are now trying to help establish a new council, including rebel officers and guerrilla forces, which Pakistan calls a pragmatic alliance to topple President Najibullah.

Informed sources say General Tanai who flew here on Wednesday in a military helicopter has met Mr. Hekmatyar. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Ends Bangladesh, Bhutan Trip

BK0903030790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan returned to Karachi on 8 March after a five-day trip to Bhutan and Bangladesh.

During his visits, the foreign minister conducted talks with the leaders of these countries on the program for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's [SAARC] fifth summit conference. He will submit a

report to Benazir Bhutto, prime minister and SAARC chairman, on the outcome of these talks. Yaqub Khan is expected to visit Colombo later.

Constabulary Personnel Killed in Hyderabad

BK0703032690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
0300 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], quoting official sources, says a personnel of the Frontier Constabulary was killed and two civilians were seriously injured in a firing incident in Hyderabad yesterday. Local administration immediately took necessary steps and brought the situation under control. Patrolling by law enforcing agencies have been further intensified to maintain peace in the city.

Editorial Views U.S. Aid, Nuclear Plant Issue

BK0903095890 Lahore THE NATION in English
9 Mar 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Case for U.S. Aid"]

[Text] Soon after the deal with France about the purchase of a nuclear power plant, some well-known lobbies in the U.S. have been trying to influence the Bush administration against the waiver to the Symington Amendment. A link is sought to be established between this deal and the issue of nuclear proliferation—to prevent which the Symington Amendment happens to be on the U.S. statute book. That there was no link between the acquisition of a power plant for energy needs and the development of a bomb particularly when the plant was being supplied under international safeguards, ought to have discouraged speculation in this regard, but it has not. Propaganda and lobbying, suspected to be financed by India and Israel, has continued. And it will probably continue so long as President Bush's waiver against the Symington Amendment, which would be applicable from April 1991 onwards, remains under the consideration of the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence, in the course of his statement before the Sub-Committee on South Asian and Pacific Affairs, has said that as the military in Pakistan had supported the revival of democracy in the country the U.S. could strengthen this "constructive trend" by continuing with military and other assistance to the present government. But even more noteworthy in his statement is the argument that India perceives all its neighbours as constituting its "security environment" and has been building its military muscle accordingly. Although the full text of the statement is not available, the implications of the argument seems to be that India claims the role of a regional policeman and would like to intervene in the affairs of its neighbours as and when it thinks fit. It is against such a contingency that Pakistan's defence needed to be beefed up. It is too early to say how the congressional Sub-Committee would react to this line of argument, but so far as Pakistan is concerned, it is aptly put and no truer word has been said on the subject.

Foreign Secretary To Visit USSR From 11 Mar*BK0803143790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Secretary Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan will visit the Soviet Union from Sunday [11 March].

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today the foreign secretary will discuss Afghanistan, the South Asian situation, and bilateral matters with Soviet officials in Moscow. The spokesman expressed the hope that after the foreign secretary's visit, the foreign ministers of the two countries would meet.

The spokesman said the Soviet Union has assured Pakistan it is ready to discuss all regional issues during the foreign secretary's visit. The spokesman said bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union are considerably better, and recent contacts at various levels would further improve relations.

Khan: Military Equipping for 'Invincible' Defense*BK0903052990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] President Ghulam Khan has (?said) that Pakistan, being a peace-loving country, has no aggressive designs against anyone. However, the government cannot remain complacent for even a moment to meet external dangers faced by the country. He was addressing the 81st passing out parade of PNA [Pakistan Naval Academy] long course in Kakul today.

The president said every step is being taken to give a befitting reply to any aggression. The Armed Forces are being equipped with the latest arms and technology to achieve invincible defense capability. He said democracy is an essential prerequisite for Pakistan's progress and development.

Paper on Outcome of Delegation's Visit to USSR*BK0703093490 Lahore THE NATION in English
7 Mar 90 p 4*

[Editorial: "Pak-Soviet Joint Statement"]

[Text] At the end of an eight-day visit of Pakistani parliamentarians to the Soviet Union, the first of its kind in 13 years, Pakistan and the USSR issued a joint statement on Afghanistan and Pak-Soviet relations in general. Regarding Afghanistan the statement emphasised the need for a political solution, based on intra-Afghan dialogue and aimed at the formation of a broad-based government in the country, "expressing the will of all the Afghan people." The Soviet Union expressed its gratitude for Pakistan's efforts in recently securing the

release of some Soviet servicemen held by the Afghans, and Pakistan expressed its gratitude for Soviet assistance in connection with Pakistan Steel Mills. A loan of \$95 million was given by the Soviets to Pakistan at the end of last year, to finance the expansion of the Steel Mills.

The normalisation of relations between Pakistan and the USSR since the latter's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan has been a necessary and a welcome development. For Pakistan, there are not only great economic benefits to be attained from cooperation with its neighbouring superpower, but also the advantages of a foreign policy which does not rely exclusively on one superpower. In the last few months some significant strides have been made in the economic sphere: apart from the Steel Mills loan, a joint Ministerial Commission is to be established to promote cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, science and technology, the agreement for which is soon to be concluded. Improvements in political relations have, however, moved at a slower pace. Mr Akhund's recent visit to Moscow to meet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze did achieve some softening of the Soviet position on Kashmir. Mr Shevardnadze expressed the hope for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between India and Pakistan without showing too strong a bias towards India. The main stumbling-block to healthy Pak-Soviet relations is the Soviets' continued support to Najibullah.

Punjab Police Seize Heroin in 'Big Drug Haul'*BK0603011490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1758 GMT
5 Mar 90*

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 5 (AFP)—In a big drug haul, Punjab police seized 370 kilograms (814 pounds) of heroin in the provincial capital of Lahore late Sunday, police sources said Monday. The haul, said to be the biggest in the cultural capital of Pakistan, was carried out following a tip-off, they said. Police set up a roadblock and recovered the drug being smuggled in a goods truck from northwestern Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, they said.

According to the local NEWSLINE magazine, narcotics worth 90 billion dollars, nearly a third of the world's 300 billion dollars narcotics trade, finds its way into the international market from Pakistan. Most of the drugs passing through Pakistan come from Afghanistan, according to officials here.

Tons of poppy are grown in the northwestern semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. Opium is derived from the poppy and converted into heroin in clandestine laboratories in these areas.

The street value in Pakistan of Sunday's heroin seizure was estimated at 18.5 million rupees (880,000 dollars) and would have been worth much more had it been sold on the international market.